UNITED
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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 10th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 29 June 1992, at 3 p.m.

Temporary President:	Mr. SOMAVIA	(Chile)
President:	Mr. MROZIEWICZ	(Poland)

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Sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT declared open the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council for 1992.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MOHAMED BOUDIAF, PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH COMMITTEE OF STATE OF ALGERIA

On the proposal of the Temporary President, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, President of the High Committee of State of Algeria.

Mr. AL-FAIHANI (Bahrain), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, Mr. MARKER (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of Asian States, Mr. ADOUKI (Observer for the Congo), Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. FRANCIS (Australia), speaking on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States, Mr. SOMAVIA (Chile), speaking, in the absence of the delegation of Saint Lucia, on behalf of the Group of Latin American States, Mr. KOLANE (Observer for Lesotho), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, Mr. MOORE (United States of America) and Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GHAOUTH (Observer for Mauritania), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Arab Maghreb Union, expressed their deep sympathy to the Government and people of Algeria on the tragic death of Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf and extended their condolences to the family of the late President.

Mr. AIT CHAALAL (Algeria), thanking the spokesmen of the regional groups and the other delegations that had taken the floor for their condolences, noted the significant role played by the late President in his country's independence movement and said that Mr. Boudiaf, with his unshakeable belief in freedom and progress and his profound attachment to human rights, had served as a symbol to the Algerian people of their popular struggle for liberty and democracy.

ELECTION OF THE BUREAU

The TEMPORARY PRESIDENT recalled that members of the Council had been informed, at the resumed organizational session, that Mr. Silović (Yugoslavia) had relinquished the post of President. On behalf of the Bureau and the Council, he expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. Silović for his excellent work during his tenure in that post.

He informed the members of the Council that the Group of Eastern European States had endorsed the candidacy of Mr. Mroziewicz (Poland) for the post of President of the Council for 1992.

Mr. Mroziewicz (Poland) was elected President by acclamation.

Mr. Mroziewicz (Poland) took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT said that, after a period of recession and stagnation, the world economy might gradually be approaching a recovery, however modest or fragile. Stronger economic activity was once again possible. That assessment, however, did not yet apply to all regions and countries, particularly countries in Africa and those experiencing savage economic contraction and war or civil strife. In overcoming the deterioration of economic and social conditions in the past few years, much would depend on the successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and, more generally, on the liberalization of trade and the easing of access to markets. Whatever the outcome, the Council would continue to face the daunting challenge of creating a propitious environment for mobilizing resources and establishing programmes to ensure long-term development. The current session of the Council would provide an important forum for discussing issues which affected developing and developed countries alike, including governance and financing, cooperation and coordination of activities, poverty and indebtedness, and human rights and social development. The current session should also offer an exceptional opportunity for considering the question of social development, fostering the human factor in society and promoting human rights and participatory democracy. Through its decisions and recommendations, the Council was in a position to re-establish the importance of the economic, social and related sectors of the United Nations system in the quest for peace.

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(The President)

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264, a number of significant measures had been taken to ensure that the Council was better equipped to carry out its functions under the Charter. The Council would be holding, for the first time, a high-level segment with ministerial participation. The theme for the high-level segment, "Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system", was particularly appropriate at the current stage in international relations.

The establishment of a coordination segment represented a deliberate attempt on the part of Member States to ensure that the Council exercised more fully its coordination functions under Articles 63 and 64 of the Charter. The Council would be in a position to adopt decisions stemming from the discussions with the executive heads participating, which could then be forwarded, in the form of recommendations, to the organizations concerned for follow-up action.

The operational activities segment was another new departure for the Council. The Secretary-General would be submitting two important reports on a number of issues which also related to the theme of the high-level segment. The discussions in those two segments would give a boost to the work of the Council in that important area. Having established a well-structured institutional framework, the Council was in a position to contribute meaningfully to enhancing the effectiveness of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system and strengthening international cooperation.

Mr. AKSIN (Turkey), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the members of OIC had met on 17 and 18 June in Istanbul to discuss the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and had adopted a resolution which, *inter alia*, noted that the claim of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to assume automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations had not been accepted. The resolution urged all States not to recognize the succession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia until it fully complied with the Security Council resolutions concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina and

(Mr. Aksin, Turkey)

formally recognized the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of that Republic and until an agreement on the question of succession was reached by the States that had constituted the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, the member countries of OIC considered that the participation of Yugoslavia at the current session of the Council did not prejudice their Governments' positions regarding the representation of that country in the United Nations.

Mr. MOORE (United States of America), referring to Security Council resolution 757 (1992), which noted that the claim by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations had not been generally accepted, said that his Government firmly believed that the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia no longer existed, and did not consider Serbia and Montenegro to be the continuation or the sole successor to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, Serbia and Montenegro were not entitled to assume the seat of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in international organizations, including the United Nations.

Mr. REINO (Observer for Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that the Community had taken note of the statements by the representatives of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro on 27 April 1992 that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia continued the international, legal and political personality of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Those statements raised questions concerning the automatic continuity of Yugoslavia's membership in international organizations, including the United Nations. In that connection, he drew attention to the statement adopted by the European Council in Lisbon on 27 June 1992 that the European Community and its member States would not recognize the new federal entity comprising Serbia and Montenegro as the successor State to the former Yugoslavia until a decision had been taken by the appropriate international institutions. The Community had decided to call for the suspension of participation by Yugoslavia in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international forums and organizations.

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Mr. KOIKE (Japan) said that his Government considered that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) did not automatically succeed the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Accordingly, Yugoslavia's participation at the current session of the Council should not prejudge the resolution of the question of succession. His delegation wished to reserve its position in that regard.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) expressed the hope that the discussion of the problem under consideration would not give the question a political slant in the Council, which was not a suitable body for considering the matter.

Mr. KOVAČIČ (Observer for Slovenia) reaffirmed his Government's view, expressed in document A/47/275-S/24105, that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could not continue the membership of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the United Nations and other international organizations, since that State had ceased to exist. Accordingly, Slovenia supported analagous views expressed by other Member States at the current session of the Council and at other sessions of United Nations bodies and considered that the participation of the delegation of Yugoslavia at the current session of the Council should not prejudice future discussion of the issue of Yugoslavia's membership of the Organization.

Mr. OSVALD (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, said that those countries would not automatically recognize the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a new entity comprised only of two of the former Yugoslav republics, as the successor State of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and awaited a decision on the issue by the appropriate international forum. Those delegations joined in the call for the suspension of the Yugoslav delegation from the proceedings of the United Nations and other international organizations.

Mr. FRANCIS (Australia) said that, for the reasons outlined by the delegations of the United States, Turkey, Japan, Portugal and Sweden, and in keeping with the letter from the Permanent Representative of his delegation addressed to the Secretary-General contained in document A/46/907, his delegation wished to reaffirm its view that the current participation of representatives of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in meetings of

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(Mr. Francis, Australia)

international organizations was without prejudice to the eventual resolution of the question of the status of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Mr. KRENKEL (Austria) said that his delegation shared the opinions expressed by previous speakers concerning the question of the representation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). As a member of the Security Council, his delegation had fully supported the relevant resolutions of that body, in particular, resolution 757 (1992). Serbia and Montenegro did not automatically succeed the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the participation of the Yugoslav delegation at the current session of the Council should not constitute a precedent and was without prejudice to a discussion of the question in the appropriate forum.

Mr. DJOKIĆ (Yugoslavia) said that it was regrettable that some delegations had sought to advance their own political positions on a question that was outside the scope of the Economic and Social Council, which should be used not for recriminations and confrontation, but rather, as a forum to promote development and cooperation among peoples and States.

As his delegation had indicated in document S/23877, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia strictly respected the continuity of the international personality of Yugoslavia and would continue to exercise all the rights and fulfil all the obligations of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in its international relations, particularly the rights and obligations laid down in international treaties ratified or acceded to by Yugoslavia. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia reaffirmed its commitment to the United Nations Charter and to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, particularly the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe.

The continuity of Yugoslavia as a State and its legal personality were consistent with established practice in international relations in similar circumstances, particularly in the United Nations. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was not a new State, but rather, a restructured State within a reduced territory. It would continue to pursue a foreign policy of the broadest possible equitable cooperation with all international bodies.

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ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (E/1992/87, E/1992/89, E/1992/90 and E/1992/100; E/1992/L.20/Rev.1)

Mr. JI Chaozhu (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development) said that he was addressing the Council in the place of the Secretary-General, who was attending the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity. The Secretary-General would open the high-level segment of the Council's deliberations on 6 July, at which the item entitled "Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system" would be a key focus of the debate.

In recent years the world had witnessed a major evolution of the functional political role of the United Nations along the lines envisioned in the Charter, and numerous economic and social problems required the same priority accorded to political issues. A reinvigorated Economic and Social Council had a key role to play in that regard. He recalled the serious deterioration in living conditions and the erosion of the economic and social infrastructure in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and parts of Asia during the 1980s and noted that economic developments in the early 1990s gave cause for much concern for the world's collective economic future, as indicated in the World Economic Survey, 1992 as well as by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Interdependence was an economic reality, not a slogan. If world markets did not expand, if productive investment did not increase, if incomes did not rise, particularly in developing countries, if major industrial economies continued their meagre performance or such performance declined, and if real long-term interest rates remained high, the international economic environment would be unable to support and absorb effectively the many export-led economic development strategies pursued by many countries.

It was imperative that policy coordination among the Group of Seven, which had weakened in recent months, be revived and made more sensitive to the needs of the world economy. If current trends continued, there was a danger that another development decade could largely be lost for most developing countries. The difficult transition under way in Eastern Europe and the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union, the severe problems facing Africa, and the continuing constraints affecting the majority of developing

(Mr. Ji Chaozhu)

countries relating to debt, capital flows and investment constituted formidable challenges. The decrease in military expenditures by the major Powers in particular had yet to be translated into a productive peace dividend. Delays in concluding the Uruguay Round of trade talks under the auspices of GATT raised the spectre of protectionist measures and the establishment of trading blocs which denied a needed stimulus for international trade, which, according to GATT, had been growing more slowly in recent years.

As the body responsible for international economic coordination under the Charter, the Council must address more pragmatically and forcefully the issues associated with the promotion of economic growth and accelerated development through strengthened international economic cooperation. It must alert the international community to the dangers which lay ahead if the current course remained unchanged and should identify measures which Member States should take to remedy the situation in the short-, medium- and long-term.

Such action by the Council would not diminish the responsibility of developing countries for carrying out sound economic policies and effectively managing their economies. However, it would be regrettable if their reform and adjustment measures were undermined by factors outside their control such as the collapse of commodity prices, continued debt burdens, limited access to external assistance and insufficient access to markets.

Major industrial nations and developing countries alike must acknowledge that an international economic recovery would depend on coherent policy actions and the will to effect a coordinated, growth-oriented approach to macroeconomic management. As ideological confrontation diminished, it was time to reassess the major elements of a global strategy for growth, productive investment, job creation and development free of traditional economic orthodoxies. The report of the Committee for Development Planning to the Council provided valuable analysis and insight in that regard.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) had demonstrated that environmental concerns could not be separated from development, and it was important to ensure that follow-up action reinforced the work of the United Nations in the economic and social sectors. The new

(Mr. Ji Chaozhu)

Commission on Sustainable Development had a critical role to play in translating Agenda 21 and the follow-up action into tangible programmes.

Bearing in mind the significant human dimension of economic development activities, he noted that the Council would have before it a report by the Secretary-General on his consultations on the possibility of convening a world summit for social development. He paid tribute to Mr. Juan Somavía of Chile for his tireless efforts to ensure the success of those consultations. He further underscored the importance of the system-wide review of activities undertaken to eradicate poverty and the report on the efforts of the system concerning AIDS to be discussed in the coordination segment.

There was growing recognition of the need for more integrated, unified approaches to the formulation, implementation and governance of operational activities for development. In the light of the Secretary-General's emphasis on the need for a more integrated, harmonized approach in order to maximize the impact of the work of the Organization, the time was now propitious for Member States to consider further measures to that end, including the need for greater integration of substantive analysis and operations to maximize the impact of the work of the Organization. At the intergovernmental level, measures were needed to strengthen existing bodies or establish new mechanisms to ensure more coherent, unified intergovernmental guidance to United Nations development cooperation activities. At the institutional level, there was a need for a more effective division of labour and a harmonized approach between the various parts of the system, recognizing the separate and complementary roles of the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations proper. At the country level, a unified approach from the United Nations system was needed, working from a common location and reporting directly to the Secretary-General.

Progress towards the revitalization of the Council had been made recently with the consolidation or transformation of various subsidiary bodies. The agenda of the Council could be further streamlined if certain items could be dealt with in informal open-ended consultations, as was done in the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

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In the interest of revitalizing the Council and enhancing its coordinating role, the Council would benefit from more extensive reporting by the World Bank, IMF and GATT as those institutions became universal in membership and as they broached a wider range of issues.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope that the members of the Council would provide the type of leadership and governmental guidance for the work of the Organization in the economic and social sectors consistent with the desire of the Secretary-General to achieve a more integrated approach.

Mr. MOORE (United States of America), introducing his delegation's request for inclusion of an additional item in the provisional agenda of the substantive session of 1992 (E/1992/90), said that its intention was neither to reopen discussion on the decisions taken at the Conference on Environment and Development, nor to interfere with action to be taken by the General Assembly, but to ensure that the Economic and Social Council had an opportunity to discuss the post-UNCED institutional arrangements in a status report at its current session. If it was not possible to discuss UNCED follow-up under agenda items 7 or 21, then the question should be taken up under a supplementary item.

The PRESIDENT said that the Council would consider the United States delegation's request at its next meeting.

Mr. COSTA PEREIRA (Observer for Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that although the States members of the Community were aware of the pressure on the Secretariat given the need to prepare documentation for UNCED immediately before the current session of the Council, they believed that the late issuance of Council documentation had seriously hampered preparations for informed debate. That was particularly regrettable since the Council was now holding its first consolidated session. It was to be hoped that the problem could be avoided in the future.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt its agenda as contained in section I of document E/1992/100.

It was so decided.

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PROGRAMME OF WORK (E/1992/100)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider its programme of work, as outlined in section II of document E/1992/100.

It had been brought to his attention that some delegations wished to conclude the consideration of agenda item 17, "Human rights questions", earlier than planned. In the interest of flexibility, he suggested that the Council should formally approve its programme of work and that the matter could be brought to the attention of the Social Committee by its Chairman.

Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Council), referring to the Council's consideration of item 9 in the plenary meeting, said that, inasmuch as the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1991/61 on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon and the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Yemen would not be ready in time for the Council to consider them on 1 July as currently planned, she wished to suggest that, after hearing an introductory general statement on the item by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs that day, the Council might wish to defer further consideration of the item to 24 July.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve its programme of work as contained in document E/1992/100, section II, as orally revised.

It was so decided.

REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/1992/89)

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to document E/1992/89, containing the report of the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations regarding the requests for hearings by non-governmental organizations under the various items of the Council's agenda. At its meeting on 25 June 1992, the Committee had submitted a recommendation, contained in paragraph 2 of the report, seeking approval of the requests of a number of non-governmental organizations to be heard at the Committee's substantive session under the agenda items indicated. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to approve the recommendation contained in paragraph 2.

It was so decided.

SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA (E/1992/87)

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to a note by the Secretary-General contained in document E/1992/87, proposing that the sixteenth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, should be held in Amman from 30 August to 3 September 1992. He said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to accept the proposal.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

For participants only

E/1992/SR.11
6 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 11th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 30 June 1992, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

CONTENTS

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Coordination questions

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies

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The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued)

Request for inclusion of an additional item in the provisional agenda (E/1992/90)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to a request from the United States of America contained in document E/1992/90, for the inclusion of an additional item, on post-United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) institutional arrangements, in the provisional agenda of the substantive session of 1992.

Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) while agreeing that a briefing by the Secretariat on the outcome of UNCED would be useful, pointed out that it could be included under an existing agenda item.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Economic and Social Council Affairs and Inter-Agency Coordination Division) suggested that the Council should follow the practice it usually applied when it was uncertain under which agenda item to consider an issue, by assigning the issue to agenda item 2 and taking it up at an appropriate point in its debate.

The PRESIDENT said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to consider the question of post-UNCED institutional arrangements under agenda item 2: Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

It was so decided.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS

(a) Reports of the coordination bodies (A/47/16; E/1991/143; E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2)

Mr. SPAANS (Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination), introducing the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on the first part of its thirty-second session (A/47/16 (part I)) and the report of the twenty-sixth Joint Meeting of CPC and the

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(Mr. Spaans)

Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), contained in document E/1991/143, said that CPC had carefully considered the manner in which it reported to the Economic and Social Council and had concluded that the new format of the Council's meetings and the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/264 provided an adequate framework for the consideration of its recommendations.

The problem of the timely issue of documentation had forced CPC, in 1992, to delay the first part of its session by a week; the Committee had, accordingly, recommended that the Bureau should remain in contact with the Secretariat in between sessions to ensure that documents were made available on time. It had also recommended that the draft agenda for the next session should contain a realistic timetable for internal Secretariat documentation processing.

With regard to the suggestions on the timing and duration of CPC sessions, requested by the Council in its resolution 1991/67, the Committee had concluded that the time currently allocated for its sessions was sufficient and recommended that, since it was required to report both to the Council and to the General Assembly, it should continue to meet between April and June, with a resumed session in off-budget years, and had decided to maintain the current format of its report.

On the topic of coordination, the Committee had welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of ACC, to assign high priority to coordination and had noted with gratification the further improvements made in the annual overview report of ACC (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2), but had again stressed the need for a more analytical and forward-looking report. The Committee looked forward to the outcome of the review of the field presence of the United Nations, currently being undertaken by the Secretary-General.

The twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC had been held in October 1991. One topic proposed by the Meetings for discussion by the Council, eradication of poverty, was on the latter's current agenda. The Joint Meetings had discussed the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade by the

(Mr. Spaans)

organizations of the United Nations system. While reaffirming the validity of the goals and objectives of the Decade and recognizing that Governments bore the main responsibility for realizing those objectives, the Joint Meetings had stressed the supportive role of the United Nations system. The Meetings had called for a more effective division of labour among the organizations of the system and had recommended that ways should be found to ensure more interaction between the Bretton Woods institutions and the other organizations of the United Nations system.

The Meetings had reconfirmed the primary responsibility of recipient countries for coordinating development assistance activities at the national level and had recommended that consideration be given to combining the goals and objectives of the Strategy with those of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular, the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Least Developed Countries.

CPC had reaffirmed the potential of the Joint Meetings as a forum for dialogue between Member States and executive heads. The next series of Joint Meetings would probably take place early in 1993. CPC particularly wished to consider the questions of the timing and topic of the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings in the light of General Assembly resolution 45/264. He hoped that the exchange between members of the Council and the heads of the United Nations organizations participating in the coordination segment would provide CPC with valuable input on how future Joint Meetings should be conducted. Lastly, he drew the Council's attention to the changes proposed by CPC in paragraph 172 of its report.

Much of the Committee's time had been spent on considering the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997. The Committee hoped that, at its resumed session, the Secretary-General would be in a position to present his views on the direction in which he would like the Organization to go, with a view to facilitating the continued review of the plan. Accordingly, while it had formulated conclusions and recommendations regarding the proposed revisions, they could be adjusted if necessary. Only five of the 10 programmes considered by the Committee had been reviewed by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. CPC believed that the consultative process

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(Mr. Spaans)

with Member States needed to be improved and it hoped that the Council would emphasize that point. The Committee had agreed to continue considering the issue of the format of the medium-term plan during its resumed session.

CPC had considered a report by the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components". With regard to that issue and to the report of the Secretary-General on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991, the Committee had expressed concern that over the years, very little improvement had been achieved in providing the legislative bodies concerned with an analytical report on programme performance. CPC had recommended once again that the objectives of the organizations should be formulated much more clearly to facilitate assessment of programme implementation.

Under the agenda item on evaluation, CPC had discussed a general report on programme evaluation in the United Nations, a progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs and the triennial review of the human rights programme. It had again concluded that evaluation activities should be strengthened and had proposed that the results of evaluations should be placed on the agendas of the specialized governing bodies concerned. CPC had been pleased with the refreshing frankness of the report on the triennial review of the human rights programme, in which various, sometimes conflicting views within the Secretariat had been presented.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Economic and Social Council Affairs and Inter-Agency Coordination Division), introducing the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2), said that the report provided information on the action taken by ACC in 1991 to carry out the tasks assigned to it by Member States and to assist the Council in coordinating the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system. It focused on six major substantive issues: development and international economic cooperation, the impact of the recent evolution in East-West relations, African economic recovery and development, emergency and

(Mr. Stoby)

humanitarian relief and assistance, environment and development, and operational activities for development.

ACC sought to develop an analytical approach and to identify policy options for Governments and focused attention on efforts to improve the overall coherence, cost-effectiveness and impact of operational activities for development, as well as on the difficulties facing the United Nations common system and the precarious financial situation of many of its organizations.

At the first regular session of ACC in April 1992, there had been an extensive discussion of the implications for the United Nations system of the transition process in Eastern and Central Europe and the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union and preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The role of ACC in the follow-up tasks stemming from UNCED was widely recognized and would be discussed as one of the main agenda items at its next session. The Secretary-General was encouraged by the commitment of the members of ACC to support the efforts to improve its functioning in order to meet the new challenges facing the United Nations.

He drew attention to paragraphs 79 to 82 of document E/1992/11, which contained information on the actions taken by ACC to implement the conclusions and recommendations of the Joint Meetings. The members of both CPC and ACC had reaffirmed the importance and usefulness of the forum for dialogue between Member States and the organizations of the United Nations system in order to ensure maximum utilization of human and financial resources through enhanced coordination. Noting that the Council must determine how best to ensure complementarity between the work of the Joint Meetings and the coordination segment, he said that consideration should be given to the timing of the Joint Meetings and their role in reviewing reports on themes for the coordination segment as well as proposing themes for the segment. In that connection, he pointed out that CPC had decided to return to the questions of the timing and topic of the twenty-seventh series of the Joint Meetings at its resumed session in 1992.

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Mr. BAUDOT (Controller) said that the subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Council itself should give more in-depth consideration to the programmes and financial management of the Organization. The current situation was not at all satisfactory. Most of the programmes submitted to CPC and the Second Committee were either not considered by the subsidiary bodies or were examined only in a superficial manner. That situation should be corrected as speedily as possible. General Assembly resolution 41/213 recognized the need for Member States to participate in the budgetary preparation from its early stages. The Secretariat was currently reviewing the effectiveness of the tools at its disposal, including the programme budget and the medium-term plan. In view of the need for greater rigour in dealing with budgetary questions, it was also necessary to evaluate programmes more thoroughly to determine the extent to which they fulfilled the mandates which the Member States gave the Organization. Programme review should be an occasion for the Secretariat to re-examine its strategies and methods of work.

The current situation with regard to programme execution and evaluation was also unsatisfactory for a number of reasons. There was no procedure whereby Member States could get a clear idea of the effectiveness of the tools being used. An intellectual effort must be made in that regard before political and institutional decisions were taken by the Organization. Lastly, he stressed the close relationship between the effort by the Secretariat to review its methods of work and enhanced implementation of the policies for carrying out the mandates laid down by the Council and the General Assembly.

Mr. SUGANO (Japan) said that his delegation supported the recommendations of CPC, particularly those set forth in paragraphs 158, 159 and 160 of its report.

His delegation welcomed the efforts of ACC to undertake action on the major substantive issues to which priority had been given in 1991 and the recognition that, at a time of profound change in international relations, there was an even greater need for joint action by the United Nations system to identify and resolve the global problems facing the international community.

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(Mr. Sugano, Japan)

While coordination had always been of particular importance to the Council and CPC, expectations in that regard were greater than before. The pivotal role of ACC with respect to inter-agency coordination had been underscored by the decision adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to entrust responsibility for high-level inter-agency coordination to ACC in order to ensure the effective monitoring, coordination and supervision of United Nations system efforts in follow-up activities. The thematic and integrated approach ACC was expected to take would be critical to the effective implementation of Agenda 21 and the other decisions reached at UNCED. ACC should establish a special task force for that purpose which should report to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its first meeting.

The role of the Council and CPC with regard to coordination of policy formulation and implementation should be strengthened. The establishment of coordination and high-level segments of the Council's substantive sessions should make it possible to achieve greater coordination. The work of the Council at the coordination segment would be greatly enhanced if the themes chosen by the Council were referred to CPC, which would then report back to the Council. It might also be useful to invite ACC and CPC to consider at their Joint Meetings certain topics dealt with at the coordination segment and to report thereon to the Council.

Mr. NEBENZIA (Russian Federation) stressed the need to make maximum use of the possibilities and advantages of the sectoral subdivisions in the United Nations Secretariat and the specialized agencies. In view of the scarcity of additional financial resources, it was particualry important to enhance coordination at all levels and utilize the corresponding intergovernmental and Secretariat mechanisms. Enhanced coordination was an important component of the wide-ranging political efforts to improve the work of the United Nations in general and its output for all Member States.

It would be more logical to discuss the general questions of coordination after the coordination segment. The President of the Council could prepare a brief summary based on that discussion with specific proposals for enhancing inter-agency coordination. On the basis of that summary and corresponding recommendations by CPC and ACC, the Secretary-General could draw up an analytical report which could be discussed at the Counci's next annual session.

His delegation welcomed the policy of the Secretary-General to assign high priority to coordination and to develop new approaches for collaboration throughout the system. It was particularly important to enhance cooperation between ACC and intergovernmental mechanisms, particularly CPC and the Council. It would be useful, for example, if the Secretary-General could invite the President of the Council and the Chairman of CPC to participate in meetings of ACC.

The increased attention given in the annual overview report of ACC for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2) to questions relating to the evolution of East-West relations was fully justified. ACC should continue to monitor developments in that area and should draw up corresponding recommendations for United Nations economic and social activities taking into account the new requirements of countries whose economies were in transition.

His Government viewed favourably the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the first part of its thirty-second session. It was important that CPC should react promptly to delays in implementation of a number of decisions which affected the entire system. That related in particular to the recommendation by CPC concerning the need to implement expeditiously General Assembly resolutions 45/190 and 46/150 on mitigating the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. His delegation was generally satisified with the results of the Joint Meetings of CPC and ACC in 1991 and was prepared to participate in discussions of various proposals to enhance the work of the Joint Meetings.

Mr. ZAINUDDIN (Malaysia) said that his delegation concurred in general with most of the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of CPC, in particular, those in paragraph 87 on regional cooperation for development in Asia and the Pacific. It was his delegation's fervent hope that those recommendations would be approved by the Council and by the General Assembly. The revised medium-term plan, once approved, should be circulated to all States Members of the United Nations for appropriate action.

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(Mr. Zainuddin, Malaysia)

CPC and ACC should continue to hold Joint Meetings. The topic for consideration should be selected ahead of time to ensure a meaningful dialogue and appropriate conclusions.

The annual overview report of ACC for 1991 did not say enough about difficulties which agencies might have faced in implementing their mandates. Future reports should be more action-oriented and analytical in nature.

His delegation agreed that improved planning was needed to ensure timely issuance of documents by the Secretariat. It also agreed that coordination should be enhanced and improved in the United Nations system, both at Headquarters and in the field. It therefore welcomed the intention of the Secretary-General, as Chairman of ACC, to assign a high priority to coordination and to work with his colleagues on that Committee to develop new approaches for collaboration. His delegation looked forward to receiving further details on those new approaches.

Mr. SHAUKAT (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the annual overview report of ACC (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2) highlighted to a considerable degree the needs of developing countries. He noted with appreciation the important coordinating role of ACC in ensuring the timely and effective provision of emergency and humanitarian relief and assistance in 1991. Profound changes were taking place in international relations, opening up new prospects for international cooperation with far-reaching implications for the United Nations system. The Organization must fully respond to the needs and aspirations of the developing countries in that context. The role of ACC had become even more important in terms of being a guiding force in promoting greater coherence throughout the United Nations system. ACC should exploit fully and in a concerted manner the various types of expertise and mandates in the system. It had a significant contribution to make in attaining the shared objective of strengthening international development cooperation for sustained and sustainable growth in the world economy and, in particular, the revitalization of economic growth and development in the developing countries.

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Mr. DJACTA (Algeria) supported the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77. The establishment of the coordination segment was a positive step towards improved monitoring of programmes and clear identification of areas where various priority efforts should be made at the system-wide level. The annual overview report of ACC was an important tool for coordination in that regard and dealt with substantive questions which were of interest to the entire international community and required concerted efforts by a number of bodies. The report demonstrated that ACC closely examined and monitored the areas under consideration and provided very useful information in that respect. Nevertheless, his delegation would have wished to see a clear indication of the specific measures taken in those areas and precise recommendations for future action.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

For participants only

E/1992/SR.12
6 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session for 1992

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 1 July 1992 at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

(a) Special programmes of economic assistance

(b) Humanitarian assistance

(c) Disaster relief coordination

Organization of work

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

(a) Special programmes of economic assistance

(b) Humanitarian assistance

(c) Disaster relief coordination

Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) said that the previous year a pioneering debate had been held in the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on the capacity of the United Nations to coordinate humanitarian assistance, which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 46/182 in December 1991 and to the establishment of a new Department of Humanitarian Affairs. Significant steps had been undertaken to revitalize the Economic and Social Council, which was playing a crucial role in shaping the policy of the United Nations in that important area.

The world of the 1990s was a world of turbulent change. At the cold war's conclusion, there was an explosion of ethnic and civil conflicts. Many societies were torn between demands for autonomy or self-determination and the dangers of fragmentation, or what the Secretary-General had termed micronationalism. The upheavals were taking a tragic toll of human lives and the international community must provide humanitarian support, above all by bringing relief to vulnerable groups like women and children, often the first and the worst affected in such conflicts.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had recently warned that poverty was accelerating environmental degradation to such an extent that the world's resources might not be sufficient to provide the food required for its population. Five hundred million people, or roughly 10 per cent of the world's population, were undernourished, and some 50 million faced famine. The natural increase of 97 million people per year during the 1990s would cause more displacement and refugee flows in the years to come.

(Mr. Eliasson)

In Africa, for instance, drought, environmental degradation, civil conflict and underdevelopment had combined to wreak havoc: millions of men, women and children were threatened by disease and by lack of food and water, especially in the Horn of Africa. In Somalia, countless lives had been lost through starvation and senseless slaughter; the conflict had prevented relief efforts from reaching people in desperate need. The situation in the Horn of Africa must be at the centre of United Nations attention.

The drought currently ravaging southern Africa, which had no parallel in living memory, threatened the social fabric and economic structures of several States. Eighteen million people in southern Africa faced starvation. In Mozambique and Angola, where civil strife had also taken its toll, the drought had added another dimension to already severe problems.

A joint pledging conference of the United Nations and the Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference on the drought had been convened on 1 June in Geneva under the chairmanship of President Masire of Botswana. The response to that initiative had been very positive. Pledges in an amount of $578 million had been received against $856 million suggested in the consolidated appeal. Drawing on that encouraging result, the two organizations would continue to mobilize the resources required to meet fully the urgent needs of the region.

The primary objective of humanitarian assistance was to alleviate human suffering resulting either from natural hazards or from man-made emergencies; in some cases, as in the Horn of Africa, the two were combined. It was evident that the United Nations had a crucial and growing role in the area of humanitarian assistance and emergency relief. United Nations humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality. The sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States would be fully respected and assistance would be provided with the consent of the affected country and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal by that country.

Resolution 46/182 provided the United Nations with four tools for coordination: the new emergency office, the Central Emergency Revolving Fund,

(Mr. Eliasson)

the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the consolidated appeals; innovative and invaluable instruments.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator worked through the new Department of Humanitarian Affairs, with a New York office and a Geneva office, the first focusing on policy planning and the policy and diplomatic dimensions of emergencies, and the latter acting as the focal point for emergency operational support. The New York office would address complex emergencies, working closely with the political and economic departments concerned to ensure humanitarian access and to facilitate a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development. Once relief operations were in place, the Geneva office would monitor follow-up, identify unmet needs and prepare situation reports in cooperation with the resident coordinators of the countries concerned.

The new Central Emergency Revolving Fund was designed to ensure that resources were available to operational organizations for prompt response to emergencies. The target of $50 million financing for the Fund had been reached after two donors' meetings. The first disbursement of $2 million had been made to assist vulnerable groups in Kenya, and a request from UNICEF for $5 million for Somalia was being processed.

The third tool for coordination was the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which was to meet a few times each year to address policy issues concerning United Nations response to emergencies. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the International Organization for Migration would participate fully in the work of the Committee and representatives of non-governmental organizations would be invited on an ad hoc basis. In addition, an inter-agency working group was being established for regular consultations at the middle management level.

A number of meetings had been held on humanitarian needs in the former Yugoslavia, although logistical coordination remained with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva, as well as on Somalia and the Iraq situation. At the country level, the resident

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(Mr. Eliasson)

coordinator was the main channel for coordination and would head the disaster management team in each affected country.

The fourth instrument for coordination was the consolidated appeal, which had already been used to address emergencies requiring collective action. As already mentioned, a successful consolidated appeal had been made for the drought in southern Africa and new appeals had been made for Afghanistan, Yugoslavia and Kenya. An updated consolidated appeal for the Horn of Africa would be launched in mid-July 1992.

General Assembly resolution 46/182 had rightly emphasized the importance of addressing the root causes of disasters as well as ensuring a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development. The United Nations played a cardinal role in mobilizing the necessary international support to address the root causes of crises and to smooth the transition to reconstruction and development.

Humanitarian assistance must be provided regardless of whether there was an immediate solution at hand, but the United Nations had been increasingly called upon to address simultaneously both the humanitarian and the political dimensions of conflicts. Impartial humanitarian assistance could have a positive effect on peacemaking efforts, as could corridors of peace and zones of tranquillity.

The United Nations was often asked as well to negotiate arrangements to ensure the safety of personnel and relief supplies. The presence of a United Nations operation had not always been sufficient to deter hostile action. Attacks on United Nations personnel and aid workers were cowardly and self-defeating and constituted serious violations of international and humanitarian law.

The problem of land-mines must be urgently addressed. The indiscriminate maiming of innocent people by mines was an affront to the international conscience; de-mining was crucially important to peace-building.

The United Nations system had in recent years been developing systems to give early warning of, among other things, natural disasters, famine and disease. That capacity for preventive action must be systematically mobilized.

(Mr. Eliasson)

All operational organizations must cooperate if an effective United Nations response to disasters and emergencies was to be mounted; if they did not, the biggest losers of all were the victims who should receive assistance.

The United Nations stood ready to meet emergencies of increasing number and complexity, but it must be provided with the necessary resources. The Secretary-General had emphasized in his recent report to the Security Council on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping (A/47/277-S/24111, para. 83) that trust required a sense of confidence that the world Organization would react swiftly, surely and impartially and that it would not be debilitated by political opportunism or by administrative or financial inadequacy. That, the Secretary-General went on to indicate, presupposed a strong, efficient and independent international civil service whose integrity was beyond question and an assured financial basis that lifted the Organization, once and for all, out of its present mendicancy.

Mr. GOMEZ (Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme) said that the whole philosophy of General Assembly resolution 46/182 rested on the key notion of the continuum from relief to recovery and development. Over the past year, the secretariat and the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had devoted much time to examining wherein lay its comparative advantage in implementing the concepts in resolution 46/182 and how it could help to bridge the chasm that had long divided relief practitioners from development practitioners. The results of those reflections followed.

Disasters occurred when hazards interacted with vulnerable populations; vulnerability arose from poverty and would be reduced through economic and social development. Also, there was no such thing as a monosectoral disaster: measures to deal with the immediate effects of a disaster might indeed be concentrated in one sector, but measures to deal with its secondary and indirect effects invariably spread throughout the affected country's economy.

The concept of disaster/development interlinkages was more than empty development jargon; it called for the weight of the development establishment to be brought to bear in a concerted and expeditious manner. That did not

(Mr. Gomez)

mean that UNDP should give major funding to relief operations, but it did mean that UNDP should assist in ensuring that recovery activities were instantly embarked upon as an integrated part of relief operations. Equally, reconstruction and recovery activities must not merely replicate the same vulnerability that had caused the disaster in the first place.

Resident coordinators' responsibility for the in-country coordination of the relief activities of the United Nations system needed to be emphasized. The resident coordinators who were responsible for coordinating both relief and development, were in a unique position to promote the concept of the continuum at the country level.

1992 was the third year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. In that regard, he was pleased to report that the value of UNDP-administered humanitarian assistance projects continued to rise; of the current figure of some $120 million, 39 per cent was for prevention and preparedness, 21 per cent for relief and 40 per cent for reconstruction and rehabilitation. Many of the funds were administered on a bilateral cost-sharing basis. Other UNDP projects likewise served indirectly to reduce vulnerability to disaster.

UNDP also supported other United Nations humanitarian efforts. The first head of UNDP's Humanitarian Programme had served also as Director of the Special Emergency Programme for the Horn of Africa (SEPHA) and had made his services available to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs; his successor would continue that work. Efforts within UNDP itself included the joint UNDP/DHA Disaster Management Training Programme, which, with vital generous financial support from donors and inputs from FAO, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization, provided training courses for the benefit of Governments, non-governmental organizations, bilateral donors and the United Nations system; special mention should be made, too, of the UNDP-administered United Nations Volunteers programme. UNDP was also developing the special emergency procedures called for in General Assembly resolution 46/182; full details would be provided at its Governing Council's 1993 session.

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(Mr. Gomez)

UNDP and UNHCR were members of a working group, in which FAO, UNICEF and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs were represented on the long-term resettlement of returning refugees. UNDP's relevant experience gained from its activities connected with the International Conference on Central American Refugees and the Regional Development Programme for Central America would be applicable to resettlement efforts elsewhere, such as in Somalia.

One emergency-related issue not mentioned in Assembly resolution 46/182, but assuming alarming proportions in Eastern Europe, in some countries members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and in Africa and Asia, was that of internally displaced persons. Although resident coordinators were responsible for in-country efforts in that regard, there was no clear-cut division of labour among United Nations bodies. The work of UNHCR, splendid as it was, had been necessarily on a case-by-case basis. The "automaticity" of systems emphasized by UNDP could be achieved only with a clear-cut division of labour, a decision on which was urgently needed.

Addressing the Council the previous year, he had suggested that proposals for restructuring should be measured against two criteria: their efficiency and effectiveness for in-country emergency response; and the obtaining of political, financial and public-opinion backing. An excellent start had been made with regard to the first criteria, although much more needed to be done, and UNDP would play its part; the second criterion had to be addressed to Member States. The response to both points would largely determine how well an already overstretched United Nations system responded not only to the deteriorating situation regarding "old" emergencies throughout the world but to the depressingly long list of "new" ones.

Mr. YENEL (Turkey) expressed appreciation to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs for the important work his Department carried out; the work on coordinating humanitarian assistance had been one of the Council's most significant recent achievements. The new Department could also be useful in disaster prevention, a task whose importance was appreciated by all, although most of the available funding was for the provision of immediate relief. National committees of the sort envisaged under the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction were

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(Mr. Yenel, Turkey)

essential for promoting awareness. In Turkey, damage caused by natural disasters represented 0.2 per cent of GNP over the past two decades, and a further 0.8 per cent of GNP had been required for disaster management in order to maintain rehabilitation expenditure at current levels. The direct cost of earthquakes could reach 2 per cent of GNP after the year 2000, and might well attain 7-10 per cent of GNP if large earthquakes occurred in industrial areas. A national plan, aimed at limiting the cost to about 0.6 per cent of GNP, had been prepared, but to apply it during the Decade called for an average annual expenditure on research, development and implementation equivalent to 0.1 per cent of GNP.

The three basic stages in disaster relief were prevention, immediate relief and post-disaster action. The last stage, in which the welfare and rehabilitation of survivors required priority, had perhaps not received due attention. Without effective assistance, human suffering could be needlessly prolonged, but an aftermath did not attract the media attention which, to a large extent, helped to galvanize and focus international concern, and the stricken country might be left with the painful tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction, using only its own meagre resources, with the inevitable social consequences. The world community and the countries afflicted must therefore combine efforts to provide the necessary timely assistance. His delegation was confident, however, that the new Department would develop the means to maintain assistance to stricken countries in the aftermath of disasters.

The need for complentarity of disaster relief and development programmes must also be kept in mind, especially in the case of protracted emergencies. International organizations also had the duty to act as a clearing-house and coordinate their activities in the speedy delivery of essential supplies; the new framework would help to overcome the excessive formalities that had sometimes delayed aid efforts in the past.

Mr. LEPAROVIC (Observer for Croatia) said that his delegation shared the view, voiced by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, that the primary aim of humanitarian assistance was to alleviate the suffering that arose from disasters, whether natural or man-made. Croatia, as everyone knew,

(Mr. Leparović, Observer, Croatia)

was suffering the consequences of a man-made disaster, stemming from the campaign of plunder being waged against it, and against Bosnia and Herzegovina, by the forces of Serbia and Montenegro. Thousands of lives had already been lost, and the number of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina currently registered in Croatia was 291,862; in addition, there were 260,000 displaced persons from inside Croatia and some 30,000 refugees from Serbia, mainly from Vojvodina and Kosovo. The need for emergency resources in order to deal with pressing problems relating to food and accommodation, hygiene and medical services were enormous and still growing. The international community's assistance, although welcome, had been inadequate and must be increased as a matter of vital urgency. The external funding needed for bare essentials had been estimated at $30 million per month; and the total cost of enabling refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes, including tasks such as rehousing, had been put at $6.5 billion.

The plight of children was especially alarming. The figures available showed that at least 81 had been killed, 384 wounded and some 2,000 orphaned; and over 200,000 had been forced to leave their homes. Children accounted for roughly two thirds of the refugee population. The Croatian Government called on the international community to do its utmost to provide the necessary emergency relief and to promote the speedy adoption of appropriate political solutions at the international level, which were a necessary precondition for a lasting solution.

Lastly, his delegation wished to state that, since the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia no longer existed, no component part of that former State could automatically become its only successor and inherit its membership in the United Nations and its major organs and agencies. The rights and obligations pertaining to membership applied to six constituent republics of the former entity; three of those - Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Slovenia - had met the criteria of the Charter of the United Nations and become Member States in their own right. The current Federal Republic of Yugoslavia did not share the same foundations of United Nations membership with those three republics. The Government of the Republic of Croatia therefore considered that the current Yugoslavia was still not a member of the United Nations family of organizations and of the Council in particular.

Mr. BARRETT (United Kingdom), speaking of behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 46/182, establishing the post of a high-level relief coordinator, significantly enhanced United Nations capabilities and responsibility for a rapid, well-coordinated response to major and complex disasters. The States members of the European Community congratulated the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs on the way in which he had begun to implement the resolution, and assured him of their full support. They welcomed the concentrating of policy coordination in New York and operational functions in Geneva; they hoped that he would be given all the necessary human resources for the Department's tasks, and would be interested in his comments on that point. They also welcomed the establishment of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The Geneva office would need to maintain its important existing roles of information-gathering and disaster prevention; and in cases where the new Department was not in the lead, it would be important to ensure that the lead agency cooperated closely with it.

The Department's role would not be mere coordination but would also involve longer-term efforts to tackle the underlying causes of crises. Humanitarian diplomacy could sometimes be more effective than conventional relief operations, especially when the latter were restricted or rendered impossible for political or other reasons. And emergency relief should be viewed not in isolation but as part of the task of promoting recovery and long-term development. The Department must be fully supported in its efforts to build better bridges between relief and development in the future.

The appointment of a coordinator did not absolve member States from their responsibility of ensuring that all parts of the United Nations system worked closely together. To that end, the need for proper implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/182 must be made clear to all relevant governing bodies; the UNDP Governing Council's decision in that regard was welcome.

(Mr. Barrett, United Kingdom)

The States members of the European Community, having provided a substantial proportion of the resources of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, were pleased that the Fund had come into operation, now that the target of $50 million had been reached. They hoped that those who had not yet fulfilled their pledges would do so as promptly as possible, and that others in a position to contribute would do so. The new Department had seen its resources fully stretched since its inception and had already proved its worth - for example, in the Horn of Africa - and in southern Africa, and it had enabled Governments to coordinate their relief work more effectively with the United Nations, as well as to gain a clearer picture of the financial requirements, thus facilitating fund-raising. But proper follow-up to consolidated appeals was essential, as was continuous coordination and cooperation among the agencies, on a basis of partnership. The response to the urgent humanitarian needs of Burmese refugees in Bangladesh and of the displaced and other refugees in the Sudan amply demonstrated the gap that the Under-Secretary-General had been able to fill. The regrettable difficulty of delivering emergency aid on a predictable and continuous basis to Somalia, however, illustrated the complex nature of the issues he would have to tackle. In that connection, States had a responsibility to provide access to emergency assistance.

Coordination at field level remained as important as ever. The Organization's resident coordinators were the best placed for coordinating the tasks of relief, rehabilitation, rebuilding and development, and must all be adequately trained in disaster management. In that respect, the UNDP/DHA-Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator training programme deserved continuing support. The experience of non-governmental organizations, too, must be used to the full, since they often had better access to local communities and greater flexibility, thus being able to react more quickly and cost-effectively.

The European Community and its member States also paid tribute to the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As the High Commissioner's 1992 report showed, the global refugee situation had continued to deteriorate, the refugee population having remained at the unacceptably

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high level of some 17 million. The closest possible cooperation was urged between UNHCR and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in emergencies which involved refugee flows.

Mr. ELIASSON (Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs) thanked the representative of the United Kingdom for the support expressed on behalf of the States members of the European Community, as well as for the continued attention to the question of resources. With regard to the latter, a structure had been drafted and a plan of action formulated, but he would prefer to reserve further comment until the follow-up meetings, to be held shortly.

Mr. BACKSTRAND (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) said that his organization was greatly concerned not only by the constantly growing number of disaster victims but also by the widening gap between needs and resources. Its annual spending on disaster response had risen from 100 million to 250 million Swiss francs in the past five years, but the proportional increase in needs had been many times that. More than ever before, humanitarian needs must be viewed as a common concern, not just as national problems; the principle of universality which Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies observed in disaster response should be extended to all, victims as well as those in a position to help.

It was not enough, however, to tackle disasters in a reactive fashion. Experience had shown that the effect of disaster was greatly reduced where communities and agencies had invested in preparedness, or where organizations had tackled the potential causes. Even in disaster relief, a long-term perspective was called for. Although agencies might be neutral, all relief work had a positive or negative effect on the future vulnerability of survivors. High-profile emergency relief, therefore, was not enough; Governments and international agencies must be willing to invest in preparedness and rehabilitation. And the investment must be within the disaster-prone community, not just among the international response agencies.

Investment would help to reduce the long-term occurrence of disasters but would not eliminate it. Relief aid coordination - a topic of particular interest to his organization - was intended to enhance the effectiveness of

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(Mr. Bäckstrand)

the provision of relief by non-governmental organizations to victims. Such a service was needed because of the growth in number and diversity of international and national non-governmental organizations involved in disaster relief, which in the past had led to inefficient use of resources and personnel and to confusion.

For donor Governments trying to ensure that their aid was effectively targeted, conflicting and incomplete pictures of relief needs, and uncertainties regarding the capacities of the organizations on the ground to deliver, often led to hesitation in resource commitment and poor coordination of relief efforts, both within the community of non-governmental organizations and between those organizations and the host Government and its institutions. Coordination at an international level required a clear understanding of what was happening in the country affected. Non-governmental organizations needed to be aware of each other's capacities on the ground and the organizational framework within which they must work in order to ensure that the relief operation was carried out coherently. In that connection, the International Federation was taking the initiative of making suitably trained delegates available to its National Societies, with the aim of providing assistance in four possible ways, firstly, pre-disaster preparedness assistance, including the provision of training and communications equipment where appropriate; secondly, assistance in assessing urgent requirements and in formulating effective relief action plans; thirdly, the provision of specifically allocated and suitably equipped international personnel in the event of disaster to assist National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in gathering, analysing and sharing relevant information; and fourthly, assistance to National Societies in developing their capacities to act as intermediaries between non-governmental organizations and the host Government, if so requested.

The International Federation was not, of course, claiming a monopoly on proposals to improve relief coordination, which would in any case require close cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and other coordinating bodies. In some countries it might be more appropriate for other, locally based, non-governmental organizations to take the lead, but

(Mr. Bäckstrand)

where a National Society was asked to assist, the International Federation was now committed to supporting that assistance with human and financial resources.

It must be stressed that disasters were not natural events or acts of God, but rather complex occurrences in which the forces of nature, economics, environmental stress and politics interacted to destructive effect. There was now a greater need than ever to reaffirm the principle that the provision of assistance was neither partisan nor political. Accordingly, all the agencies involved in disaster response must strive to open up the channels between the disaster victim and relief aid, while ensuring that those channels were not misused for narrow political gain. It must be recognized that non-governmental or international agencies could not act alone, and that in every country they needed the help of the authorities in order to guarantee the delivery of assistance. At the very least, they needed to be confident that the flow of legitimate aid to disaster victims would not be deliberately impeded.

Mr. DZOKIC (Yugoslavia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that, in his statement, the representative of Croatia had made certain allegations against the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in respect of violations of human rights. His delegation wished to point out, however, that, in particular, the claim that the Federal Republic was acting as an aggressor was completely unfounded, and it was a well-known fact that no members of the Army of the Federal Republic were involved in the hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and that the Army was closely cooperating with the United Nations Protection Force in implementing the Secretary-General's peace plan. He reserved the right to further comment on the allegations at a later stage.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the forthcoming high-level segment of the Council's session. It would take place over a three-day period, from 6 to 8 July, and heads of delegations would be requested to make no more than three statements of no longer than 5 minutes each.

Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that, since the high-level segment was

(Mr. Martin, United Kingdom)

an essential feature of the revitalized Council, the opportunity it afforded for genuine dialogue should not be lost. There was a danger that the formal statements by heads of delegations would effectively usurp the time available for debate. The delegations of the States members of the European Community were apprehensive that, should that occur, it would be difficult to persuade ministers and other senior representatives of Governments to enter the high-level segment at future sessions.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan), Mr. MOORE (United States of America) and Mr. MALONE (Canada) said that they agreed with the comments made by the representative of the United Kingdom.

The PRESIDENT said that he shared the concern expressed by the previous speakers, and that the Bureau would meet to discuss the issue in the light of the priorities they had raised. He assured delegations that the intention was to allow as much time for dialogue as possible, provided that all delegations wishing to speak had the opportunity to do so.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

For participants only

E/1992/SR.13
9 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992

High-level segment

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 13th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 6 July 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The SECRETARY-GENERAL said that, while the end of the cold war had diminished fears of global war and devastation, it had been followed by fierce new assertions of nationalism, as well as ethnic and religious challenges to social peace and the cohesion of States. At the same time, the recent improvement in the material well-being of millions of people was taking place in the context of a growing disparity between rich and poor. The statistics were undeniable: the industrialized world, with 25 per cent of the world's population, consumed 70 per cent of the world's energy, 75 per cent of its metals, 85 per cent of its wood and 60 per cent of its food.

Many developing countries were confronted with high inflation, large fiscal deficits, inadequate investment and serious debt burdens, as well as deteriorating physical and social infrastructures. Policy reforms and adjustment programmes, which could bring long-term progress, caused short-term distress and were therefore avoided or inadequately implemented. The result was insufficient development, persisting inequality and increasing instability.

The crisis was no longer confined to the disparity between North and South. The countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union were struggling in their transition towards democracy and market economies. Those nations faced constraints similar to those encountered elsewhere in the world, namely, lack of financial and technical resources, shortage of technical personnel, outdated production structures, inability to make productive use of technology, serious environmental problems and restricted access to world markets.

It had often been noted that there were many poor people in the rich countries of the North and many rich people in the South. There was not only growing inequality among nations but, increasingly, also within nations.

Together with poverty, the unjust distribution of national economic resources bred social discontent and upheaval. Those concerned with managing economic transformation must endeavour to balance the pace of economic change with the need to care for the poor and vulnerable. In order to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, investment in human development, particularly education and health, with emphasis on creating opportunities for the advancement of women, must be significantly increased.

With a view to furthering an integrated approach, he had urged that a reinvigorated and restructured Economic and Social Council should be invited to provide to the Security Council, in accordance with Article 65 of the Charter, reports on economic and social developments that could threaten international peace and security. For the same reason, he had stressed that the focus of the United Nations should remain on the "field", the location where economic, social and political decisions took effect and where artificial lines between them tended to disappear. He was currently taking steps to rationalize and, in certain cases, integrate the work of the Organization's various bodies within specific countries.

In order to be successful, peacemaking and peace-keeping must be integrated with comprehensive efforts to identify and support structures that would consolidate peace and foster a sense of confidence and well-being among people. In addition to traditional military tasks, such operations entailed new responsibilities, which included monitoring elections, advancing human rights, attending to the needs of refugees, protecting minorities, reforming or strengthening government institutions and promoting political participation. For the longer term, peace-building would involve cooperative projects that linked two or more countries in mutually beneficial undertakings in such areas as agricultural development, shared water resources, transportation networks and educational exchanges.

In restructuring the Secretariat, he had consolidated all elements dealing with economic and social issues at Headquarters into a new Department of Economic and Social Development. That would help avoid duplicated functions and would facilitate work with the political sectors of the Secretariat. In the second phase of restructuring, he intended to integrate

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(The Secretary-General)

more closely the work of the Secretariat at Headquarters with that of the regional commissions and of United Nations programmes in order to stimulate interaction between policy, research and technical cooperation with a view to promoting high-quality growth and sustainable development.

It was particularly important to scrutinize carefully, and adjust as necessary, the role of the United Nations in operational activities. He intended to seek broadly representative high-level advice on that subject from academic, business and government circles, as well as from other individuals knowledgeable about the United Nations system. That would help to ensure that the policy advice that the Organization provided to Governments was coherent and that the various bodies could draw on each other's resources and concentrate on areas in which they had a clear comparative advantage.

The resources of the entire United Nations system, the specialized agencies, the international financial institutions and the development programmes must be harnessed in international cooperation for the reduction of poverty and the creation of economic opportunity for all. The Bretton Woods institutions had the technical and financial resources needed to promote macroeconomic adjustment and create adequate conditions for investment and growth. The coherent and rigorous application of the Organization's expertise in the socio-economic and environmental fields could have a greater impact on the design and implementation of adjustment and restructuring programmes supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. In addition, the lending policies of the Bretton Woods institutions could reinforce United Nations efforts to promote social development and protect the environment.

There was an urgent need to establish a closer link between the international financial institutions, including the regional development banks, and the United Nations programmes and departments dealing with peace-keeping, peacemaking, post-conflict peace-building, preventive diplomacy and humanitarian assistance. Such institutions could provide the resources to facilitate the transition of United Nations actions from peace-keeping and relief operations to reconstruction and development in the cause of peace-building.

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(The Secretary-General)

The United Nations was a forum for problems of particular concern to the developing countries. The Organization had the crucial responsibility to monitor economic and social trends that might emerge as sources of political instability. The United Nations must encourage economic and social cooperation to facilitate the integration of developing countries and countries in transition into the world economy. Primary consideration should be given to access to world markets for products from poor countries, and to official financing needed to carry out adjustment programmes, strengthen infrastructures and enhance education in order to enable those countries to attract private flows in future.

The Economic and Social Council should introduce a flexible, high-level inter-sessional mechanism that would enable the Council and its Bureau to respond in a timely way to new developments in the economic and social sphere. Through a continuing dialogue with organizations of the system, the inter-sessional mechanism could build agreement on common ends and objectives and adapt the economic and social policy agenda to rapidly changing requirements. Its work should be rooted in sound analysis and understanding of developments and global trends. It should encompass an "early-warning" function, covering developments and trends that might lead to threats to security and well-being. Member States represented in the high-level inter-sessional mechanism would be urged to send experts and representatives who had access to top decision makers and could speak for their Governments on issues of global concern.

Under Article 62 of the Charter, the Economic and Social Council had the authority to call international conferences on matters falling within its competence. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the largest summit ever held, had just concluded at Rio de Janiero. In 1993, the first World Conference on Human Rights would be held. In 1994, the International Conference on Population and Development would take place and, in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women would be held. Such conferences had become a mechanism of utmost importance for incorporating practices, commitments and laws into the international system, and they were building a body of fundamentally accepted guidelines across a range of major world issues.

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(The Secretary-General)

The attraction of the proposed world summit on social development was precisely its potential to build a network of communications where few bridges or roads currently existed. The summit would increase awareness of global issues and help build a consensus on dealing with them at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Only the United Nations could convene conferences involving heads of State or Government to examine complex issues and propose integrated approaches. The Conference on Environment and Development had been held in response to the immense challenge of integrating environment and development at the national, regional and global levels as a prerequisite to movement towards sustainable development. It was no longer credible to speak of the environment without putting it squarely in the context of economic and social development, nor was it possible to discuss development in isolation from the environment. The Rio de Janeiro Charter marked a significant advance: States were henceforth obliged to take global environmental consequences into consideration in their domestic planning decisions. Agenda 21, was a centre-piece of international cooperation, and the establishment of a high-level commission on sustainable development under Article 68 of the Charter, and under the authority of the Economic and Social Council, would be crucial in the monitoring and integration of the tasks set by Agenda 21.

The world currently faced a unique opportunity. While economic and social problems were unprecedented in their magnitude and severity, there were also unprecedented reasons for optimism. There was a shared sense of urgency and a growing awareness that closer international cooperation was both necessary and possible. If the countries of the world grasped those possibilities with good will and good sense, they would find themselves on the road to a more humane and successful world.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (E/1992/100, E/1992/L.20/Rev.1 and Corr.1)

The agenda was adopted.

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ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (E/1992/82 and Add.1)

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said it was disappointing to note that, in 1991, total world production and incomes had fallen for the first time since the Second World War. The main reason was that, as stated in the *World Economic Survey 1992*, the economies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union had been disrupted even further than in 1990; growth in the major industrial economies had slowed down, too, and several were in recession. World per capita output had declined by over 2 per cent in 1991, after virtually stagnating in 1990.

The international climate remained heavily weighted against the developing countries, whose efforts to foster development were still frustrated by denial of market access, dwindling resource flows, absence of foreign investment, a crushing debt burden, restrictions on technology transfer and inequities in world monetary, financial and trade systems - factors which had worsened the predicament of the least developed countries. National policies alone, and limited crisis-response measures by the major industrialized countries, could not solve the world economy's inherent problems, which were fundamental and interdependent and called for a concerted global effort.

Greater economic assistance on concessional terms for the developing countries was pivotal to a speedier restructuring of the world economy. There must be a balance between development aid and policy-based lending, and loan conditionalities should not exceed adjustment capacity. Despite initiatives such as debt-equity swaps and rescheduling, progress in debt reduction had in most cases been modest. Although the Group of 77 wholeheartedly supported the initiatives and strategies focused on the severely indebted middle-income and low-income countries, it stressed that several developing countries, including Pakistan, had undertaken bold, growth-oriented adjustment programmes and had managed their economies prudently but still had very high debt burdens. Since such countries were deriving virtually no benefit from existing initiatives, the evolution of a more equitable strategy was suggested.

A special effort must be made to ensure the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and to provide broader

(Mr. Marker, Pakistan)

information for economic policy, including data to enable dumping to be dealt with more effectively without major disruption of international trade.

Instruments such as the declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, and Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio, were fundamental guidelines for common action. There was growing recognition that the United Nations had a vital role to play in attaining key development objectives for the 1990s, and that the system's capacity and effectiveness must be enhanced. In that regard, the most important element in the Secretary-General's report (E/1992/82 and Add.1) appeared in paragraphs 65 and 66, to the effect that poverty eradication was one of the Organization's most important goals but could not be achieved without a new commitment of resources, and that, although there was considerable room for the reallocation of resources at both the national and international levels, additional resources would still be required; the developing countries would need to mobilize their own resources, and substantially increased bilateral and multilateral assistance would be necessary to support their efforts.

The Group of 77, while strongly endorsing those observations, felt that the report conveyed the impression that peace and security were the main - if not the only - prerequisite for development. Other issues, such as poverty eradication and the removal of current inequities in the global economic system, were equally essential; international development cooperation should be treated on an equal footing with the preservation of international peace and security, with which it was inextricably linked. The Group also cautioned against any attempt to redefine the developing countries' priorities or confine international development cooperation to operational activities. The developing countries would not accept any prescriptions which violated the fundamental principle of sovereignty of States.

The overall objective of restructuring was to make the United Nations more responsive to the need to enhance international economic cooperation in favour of the developing countries, preserving the democratic principles which underpinned the Organization's decision-making process; General Assembly

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resolution 45/264 set forth the relevant principles and guidelines. The need to rationalize the operational arm of the United Nations system was recognized. Financing proposals in that regard must ensure that the provision of resources and technical assistance to developing countries was stable and assured, reflecting the neutrality of funding as well as the recipient countries' needs, policies and priorities.

He had outlined some of the Group of 77's broader concerns; statements in greater detail on those and other issues would doubtless be made by the Group's individual delegations.

Baroness CHALKER of WALLASEY (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the United Nations, in facing the challenge of the unprecedented changes taking place in the world, seemed to have been less successful in dealing with economic and social problems than in the area of peace and security; as the joint Nordic memorandum (E/1992/91) had shown clearly, the United Nations system had in many cases evolved in a fragmented way over the past 45 years. The linkages, more apparent than ever before, between peace and security and the achievement of economic and social progress, human rights, democracy and good governance made it essential to re-examine the United Nations system with a view to achieving a more integrated response. For example, the United Nations would have a pivotal role in following up the strategy for sustainable development agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Although progress had been made during the past two years, such as the welcome wide-ranging reform of humanitarian assistance agreed upon at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, difficulties were still encountered in developing and implementing integrated strategies, and the Council had hitherto failed to fulfil satisfactorily its coordination role under the Charter.

Two areas which merited particular attention were the governance and financing of United Nations development agencies and the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. With regard to the first, United Nations funds and programmes needed better management by the bodies themselves and more effective governance by the membership. The

(Baroness Chalker of Wallasey,
United Kingdom)

development system should be radically reformed so as to prepare it for the challenges of the next century. Some excellent ideas had been put forward in that regard, including those in the Nordic project as described in document E/1992/91. Too often, however, the agencies' original mandates had been undermined by uncertainty and politicization, member States' wishes had sometimes been given insufficient weight, and competition between agencies had caused overlapping. There was need for strong leadership by the Secretary-General and for discussion by the Administrative Committee on Coordination of ways in which the agencies could focus on performing their traditional tasks better. With regard to the second area meriting attention, it was important to clarify the institutions' respective roles and those of other United Nations bodies, paying more heed to their respective advantages and reaching clear agreement on the priorities of each.

Although reform might be difficult, the importance the Member States attached to it was shown by the high-level participation in the Council's current session, which should lay the basis for reform of the United Nations development activities, to be considered at the General Assembly's next session, at which, the requisite decisions could be taken.

Mrs. LANDRY (Canada) said that Canada welcomed the leading role of the United Nations debates and activities in promoting democracy, human rights, peace and the economic development throughout the world, and would be hosting, in early 1993, a UNESCO congress on education in the field of human rights and democracy. The United Nations was a potent instrument for shaping opinion and the policy trends for which the current era would be known, examples being the work of UNDP in human development and that of UNICEF in protecting vulnerable groups throughout the development process. Such themes had become universally accepted and they influenced the work of many other multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and IMF.

At its second regular session of 1991, the Council, with strong encouragement by Canada, had initiated in-depth consideration to ensure better coordination of worldwide humanitarian assistance; consequent action by the General Assembly had led to the appointment of an Under-Secretary-General for

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(Mrs. Landry, Canada)

Humanitarian Affairs, whose department must be given the requisite human resources.

With reference to the proposed world summit on social development, Canada had stressed the role the United Nations should play in promoting national policies and reducing economic and social inequalities; the proposed summit should encourage the closer integration of social factors into overall economic planning. The global commitment to sustained development forged at the Rio Conference meant that henceforth virtually all United Nations programmes must reflect the need to integrate environmental protection with economic development; that approach, in tandem with national commitments, would be the key to sustained development as a global objective into the next century. Canada attached considerable importance to the proposed new high-level commission on sustainable development, and would take part in the General Assembly's discussions, at its next session, on the commission's specific modalities.

In order to enhance the United Nations role in international development it was important to define what the United Nations system could do to improve its own impact and to complement the efforts of developing countries and development organizations. The roles of the core development programmes - UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP - should be considered first; those of the specialized agencies, regional commissions and other bodies could perhaps be addressed at a later stage. To begin with, the role of the Council itself should be redefined. Canada supported the Secretary-General's action to streamline the Secretariat, and looked forward to his further proposals. It wondered, however, whether the leadership role of the Department of Economic and Social Development on policy and coordination issues was compatible with its project execution role; if the latter were transferred elsewhere, the Department might be recast so as to become the development secretariat of a revitalized Council as the governing body of the development system. The Nordic recommendations, as modified by consultations, should be implemented forthwith.

Canada supported the following actions: firstly, the establishment, within the Council, of the functions of policy-setting and overall direction

(Mrs. Landry, Canada)

for the entire United Nations development system; secondly, the establishment of a small, professional semi-permanent Executive Board, representing UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA, with a double majority voting system in which decisions must be agreed by a majority of representatives of developed and developing countries alike; thirdly the restructuring of the Department of Economic and Social Development as the Council's development secretariat, to act as the administrative channel for all funding and the coordinator of global issues; and fourthly, the establishment, in each major recipient country, of a coordinator appointed by the Secretary-General and empowered to coordinate an integrated programme in each country. Those initial changes would raise the developing countries' confidence in the relevance of the United Nations development system.

Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA (Cuba) said that the current high-level session of the Council could be a landmark in the Organization's history if it truly led to the strengthening of international development cooperation. It was essential to recognize two fundamental premises. The first was that such cooperation was a duty imposed by the Charter; the second was that the duty would remain far from being fulfilled unless prevailing attitudes and practices were radically changed. Certain recent documentation and initiatives tended to distort the Organization's role and further reduce its capacity to fulfil its mandate.

Faced with a situation in which the deaths of children under five years of age equalled in number, every 18 months, the victims of all the armed conflicts throughout the world since 1945, United Nations action could not be restricted to mere technical or humanitarian assistance - in other words, confined to the notion of mitigating suffering without seeking to eradicate its causes.

The solution lay in justice and true solidarity, and in a system of international relations in which the developing countries' prosperity was promoted by doing away with unequal terms of trade, external indebtedness, reverse transfer of financial resources, structural adjustment policies imposed at enormous social cost, and in the inequitable distribution of wealth, utilization of natural resources and patterns of consumption. There

(Mr. Alarcon de Quesada, Cuba)

must be an end to the imposition on the developing countries of neo-liberal policies which had adverse economic, social and environmental effects and reinforced the structural poverty inherent in any underdeveloped economy. The ending of the cold war and of the risk of nuclear confrontation rendered even less defensible the withholding, for the sake of the arms race, of resources essential to development.

To abandon such practices should be the first step in a viable United Nations development effort. The General Assembly had already defined a programme to promote genuine cooperation for development, including a stronger United Nations role. Only the requisite political will was lacking; on the latter, however, would depend the success of the Fourth United Nations Development Decade.

Mr. SAMUELLSON (Sweden) said it was important to recognize that United Nations activities in the fields of security and of economic and social affairs were mutually supportive. He agreed with the Secretary-General that a more integrated approach would imply changes in the structure and methods of work both of intergovernmental bodies and of the Secretariat, and endorsed his call for a new vision of development that was people-centred, equitable and sustainable. Transforming that vision into reality was central to United Nations responsibilities and should be a guiding principle for its economic and social role.

The same objective had been fundamental to the work of the Nordic United Nations project (see document E/1992/91), which had sought to translate rights and obligations into more transparent rules and norms to promote a stronger sense of partnership among Member States. The basic message of the Nordic project was that the quality and relevance of the field projects and programmes of many United Nations organizations needed to be improved. For many years the Nordic countries had financed one third of the voluntary contributions to certain key programmes and they therefore felt a special obligation to examine the efficacy of United Nations development assistance. Unless reform and improvement were forthcoming, it would be difficult for them to maintain their strong commitment to the United Nations in that field. The Nordic countries' proposals for a new governance structure and a new system of

(Mr. Samuellson, Sweden)

financing United Nations funds and programmes were outlined in the Nordic memorandum (E/1992/91).

The point of departure for the proposals was that the system of governance, leadership and funding needed for the political "meeting place" function was distinctly different from that needed for the operative or "executive" function. The sessions of many governing bodies had become huge gatherings simultaneously dealing with a wide spectrum of matters at different levels of governance. The aim was to create instead two different levels of governance. First, a body was needed to provide effective high-level guidance and cohesion for United Nations funds and programmes, such as an international development council. However, the aim was not to propose the establishment of a new body but to highlight the functions concerned, and the options for integrating those functions into the present structure were set out in the Nordic memorandum. Secondly, small executive bodies were needed to provide continuous operational guidance for individual United Nations programmes and funds, the mode of work and composition of which should reflect the United Nations basic character of a joint undertaking between the economically more developed countries and the developing countries.

The Nordic project also stressed the close link between governance and finance, and current financing difficulties could be seen as a reflection of underlying governance problems. The fragmentation of funds and the increase in extrabudgetary arrangements had made it increasingly difficult for donors and recipients to control activities, while the main drawback was the lack of relation between programme objectives and available resources.

The aim of the reform of the financing system should be to ensure the necessary effectiveness, predictability and stability of resources, with contributions shared more equally among members through a system involving a combination of assessed and voluntary contributions and negotiated pledges, as outlined in the Nordic memorandum.

He welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to reform and was pleased to see that the proposal for more effective disaster-relief coordination was now being implemented. He also welcomed the decisive action taken by the Secretary-General for reform of the Secretariat, and stressed the importance

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of implementing the institutional arrangements needed to ensure momentum in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including strengthening the Secretariat structure.

In addition to the mandates and roles of United Nations bodies and the governance and financing structures of funds and programmes, attention should also be focused on the proposals for reform of the specialized agencies. He expected that the President would make a summary of the discussions and conclusions, which would then serve as guidelines for the decisions to be taken at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

Mr. ARIAS (Spain) welcomed the Secretary-General's report (E/1992/82 and Add.1), which raised important questions with regard to enhancing the efficacy of United Nations development cooperation.

Although the measures adopted by the General Assembly to improve humanitarian and emergency aid mechanisms and the proposed creation of a high-level commission on sustainable development were encouraging signs, much remained to be done if the United Nations was to meet the new challenges of a constantly changing world.

The economic and social sector was of particular importance, and the final report of the Nordic United Nations project, submitted in 1991, had identified the problems and proposed bold solutions, including the need to eliminate overlapping and achieve greater transparency in the functioning of decision-making and management structures. Careful consideration should be given to the proposals to increase funding levels and stabilize them in the medium term, while available resources must be used as effectively and transparently as possible.

Proper account must be taken of the growing disparity between the economic and social situations of the developing and industrialized countries, and official development assistance programmes must be tailored accordingly. Particular emphasis had been placed in recent times on the concept of good governance and the relationship between human rights and economic and social development. A development policy must focus on the individual and his right to participate in political and social decisions. However, it was also important to apply such principles equally to all countries, both small and

(Mr. Arias, Spain)

large, and to recognize that the close ties between good governance, democracy, human rights and development must be translated into a coherent approach at both national and multilateral levels.

A particular cause for concern was the frequently unjustified propensity of certain developing countries to devote substantial resources to the purchase of arms rather than to economic development, while continuing to receive aid often in excess of that given to countries which had concentrated spending in the social sector. Giving priority to social measures was especially important for developing countries beset by illiteracy, unemployment, and lack of basic education and health-care facilities, which could lead to racism, xenophobia and drug addiction, thereby increasing social and political tensions.

In recent years his country had played an increasingly prominent role in development cooperation and the President of the Spanish Government had announced at the Rio Conference that, having tripled its development aid during the previous 10 years, Spain was firmly committed to tripling the volume of its aid once again in the forthcoming decade.

He attached considerable importance to strengthening the aid and cooperation provided through non-governmental organizations, most of which undertook selfless and important work, achieving an impact in many cases beyond the scope of Governments and international organizations.

In conclusion, he felt that the proposed world summit on social development in 1995 would provide an unparalleled opportunity for giving political impetus to the improvement of living conditions for the most disadvantaged sectors of the world's population.

Mr. KRINGSTAD (Norway) said that reform of the United Nations system was necessary to achieve a number of objectives. Firstly, improved high-level policy guidance was needed for operational activities, together with an improved dialogue to establish principles and priorities for development activities. The Economic and Social Council had been originally established to meet those requirements, but in practice it had not fulfilled its task. It was to be hoped that the more central role accorded to the Council under

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(Mr. Kringstad, Norway)

General Assembly resolution 45/264 would enable it to exert a greater influence over international policy dialogue on development issues.

Secondly, the impact of the operational activities of the United Nations organizations must be enhanced. The development funds and programmes were small in financial terms but could play a vital role if run in an efficient and cost-effective way. Optimum use must be made of scarce resources and duplication of effort must be avoided, while seeking to coordinate activities as far as possible. There was also considerable scope for improvement with regard to working methods and staff competence.

Thirdly, the governance of development organizations must be improved so that the governing bodies of the agencies concerned could make informed decisions to guide the organizations in their work. Although the scope for direct participation by Member States would be reduced, small executive boards would still be reasonably representative and would make for much greater efficiency.

Fourthly, development organizations required a larger and more stable financial basis. That could be achieved through a system including assessed contributions, negotiated pledges and voluntary contributions.

Finally, the United Nations system needed a coordinated presence at country level, while it was essential for recipient countries to ensure national coordination of efforts.

Mr. BOLTON (United States of America) said that United Nations activities in the economic and social fields had reached a critical juncture. In the previous five years, the Security Council had operated more effectively than ever before because its actions had had an impact on real lives in the real world. The problem with the Economic and Social Council was that for many years its actions had failed to achieve any such impact. Unless something was done, the marginalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields would continue. Although the Charter had given it specific functions in its own sphere of competence, over the years the Council had degenerated into a forum for rhetorical excess with hours and days wasted on resolutions which had no impact in the real world.

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(Mr. Bolton, United States)

His delegation wished to put forward a number of recommendations based on the need to reduce duplication of effort and bring increased coherence to the United Nations system. Firstly, the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly should be abolished. Secondly, the Economic and Social Council should be vested with the functions of an international development council, as proposed by the Nordic countries. Thirdly, serious consideration should be given to the ideas put forward by the Russian Federation. Finally, all activities should be judged by their potential impact on the real world.

His delegation also felt that further reforms were needed to make the entire system more effective. Operational bodies such as UNDP, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR were at the core of United Nations development activities. However, those agencies had increasingly moved into new fields, exceeding the scope of their original functions. The main problem was the lack of effective coordination between component parts of the system, with inevitable overlapping. Again, his delegation wished to put forward a number of recommendations. Firstly, the proposal by the Nordic countries for small executive governing boards for operational bodies should be adopted. Secondly, better coordination was needed among the agencies and also within Governments. Thirdly, careful consideration should be given to the role of the regional commissions and to the question of whether they should continue in their present form. The time for such reforms was now, before it was too late.

Mr. KURTH (Germany) said that his country took a keen interest in the reform of the United Nations development system and was resolved to shoulder increased international responsibility, including closer cooperation with the countries of the southern hemisphere. The plan to make Bonn a national and international centre for North-South cooperation was part of that commitment. While agreeing with the Secretary-General on the interdependence between peace and security and economic and social development, he felt that greater integration and coherence should not lead to a centralization of functions and power at Headquarters in New York.

His country had always believed in the comparative advantages and special expertise offered by the multilateral approach to economic and social

(Mr. Kurth, Germany)

development, which needed to be more fully exploited. However, there was growing concern about deficiencies in the multilateral system as a whole and in some organizations and institutions in particular. Critics were calling for more clearly defined accountability, greater transparency and efficiency in decision-making, both at Secretariat level and in governing bodies, greater compliance with properly formulated development priorities, hard evidence of the cost-effectiveness of cooperation measures, improved coordination and avoidance of duplication, and greater resistance to empire-building in administrations. Due weight must be given to all those concerns, which were mainly related to good governance and good management. Improving governance must be the starting-point for reform and he welcomed the proposal put forward by the Nordic countries for small executive boards for the main programmes and funds, as well as the concept of an intergovernmental body to provide broad guidance for the smaller executive bodies. It would be preferable to use existing structures for that purpose rather than creating new bodies.

Once governance had been improved, it would be easier to discuss new forms of funding, since the two questions were closely related. His country understood the concerns related to total reliance on voluntary contributions, but would approach any discussions with an open mind.

Finally, he supported the idea of unified United Nations offices at country level as an appropriate way of promoting coherence and effectiveness in the field.

Mr. AHTISAARI (Finland) said that the role of the United Nations in maintaining peace and security was inseparable from the support it provided for development efforts, and that the functions of the various agencies within the United Nations system should be differentiated according to their specific mandates and comparative advantages, as envisaged in the proposals for reform put forward by the Nordic countries in document E/1992/91. Those functions should also be distinguished from the macroeconomic considerations of IMF and the long-term investment concerns of the World Bank. Clearly, further analysis would be needed to determine which aspects of development posed the most likely threats to peace and security, but the development activities of the United Nations should not be limited to countries in which crisis was

(Mr. Ahtisaari, Finland)

imminent or where destruction must be repaired: even stable but underdeveloped countries were entitled to undiminished assistance, and development activities ought to be seen as a counterpart of the Organization's long-term preventive diplomacy.

The United Nations was uniquely placed to provide innovative analysis and policy advice on such interrelated issues as the international economic situation and the link between trade, finance, investment and technology and their effects on the environment. To fulfil that role, however, both the Economic and Social Council and the operational activities of the United Nations must be strengthened. In particular, effective guidance at the level of programmes and funds would require smaller executive organs and a closer relationship between the governing body and management, while preserving a balance between efficiency and equitable representation in the former.

The current funding system of operations activities, which was based solely on voluntary contributions, including administrative costs, had been found to be insufficient and unpredictable. In order to ensure more reliable financing for those activities the Nordic countries had proposed a three-tier funding system combining negotiated pledges and a small portion of assessed contributions, the balance being met from voluntary contributions. The Nordic delegations hoped that further discussions on the reform of governance and financing could take place at the next session of the General Assembly. Their concerns, which seemed to be in line with the views of the Secretary-General, pointed to an underlying current in favour of radical reform.

Mr. DEBARGE (France) said that his delegation fully endorsed the views expressed by the United Kingdom representative on behalf of the European Community. Two aspects seemed to be of paramount concern in determining the role of the United Nations in international development cooperation, the first being the realization that development itself could not be confined solely to the economic dimension, and that it should not be seen in a strictly national context. It was essential that the possible impact at the regional level was taken into account. At the same time, development could not be successful without genuine participation by the populations affected, as the failure of totalitarian experiments had shown.

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(Mr. Debarge, France)

The second consideration in determining the nature of the Organization's activities was the need to maintain complementarity between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, thus strengthening the macroeconomic focus of those activities, which had thus far been somewhat overlooked in development programmes. In that connection, the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council could play a vital part.

In the field, concerted action by the various agencies was required, in addition to proper differentiation between the specific mandates of each institution: in particular, the Economic and Social Council should concentrate on negotiation and analysis, while the specialized agencies focused on technical expertise and the Bretton Woods institutions on financing through funds and programmes. In that regard it was essential, firstly, to simplify and rationalize activities in order to avoid overlapping; secondly, to draw a distinction within each institution between policy-making and management; and thirdly, to ensure that central coordination of the system lay with the Council, acting under the authority of the General Assembly. Finally, and most importantly, successful reform would depend on the political will of Member States and the financial efforts they were prepared to make at the national level on behalf of development, always bearing in mind the goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of GDP to official development assistance.

Mr. ROZENTAL (Mexico) said that the main aim of development cooperation should be to encourage the creation of conditions in the field of trade, financial flows and technology transfer which would stimulate development, and to encourage the channelling of technical aid to developing countries. Although the two fields were closely interrelated, international development cooperation should be seen not solely in terms of peace and security, but rather as an instrument to promote social progress and improve living standards.

With regard to the various proposals for structural reform, he stressed that it was the task of the Member States to decide on the restructuring and revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, in line with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolution 45/264.

(Mr. Rozental, Mexico)

While it was true that the work of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council needed to be rationalized, little would be achieved unless greater political will was shown by the Member States, particularly the richer ones, to give a genuine commitment to international cooperation. Accordingly it was necessary to improve the effectiveness of United Nations activities, using as a point of reference the priority guidelines set by the Member States.

The main priority was the fight against poverty, which affected a majority of the world's population. Helping those people to meet their basic needs and participate under better conditions in productive activities was the major challenge facing the international community.

Mr. WOEHLK (Denmark) said that the time had come to take a closer look at the established structures of the United Nations, which like other international and intergovernmental institutions had a tendency to proliferate. The system must be reformed in order to deal with urgent problems and emerging opportunities and to do away with inefficiency, overlapping and lack of transparency. The Nordic countries had therefore put forward proposals (E/1992/91) for reform with the aim of substituting a two-tier structure for the existing governance system. Without reform of governance, it was unlikely that the funding base for the operational activities of the Organization would increase, or even be maintained at the current level. Previous experience had also indicated the need for more secure and predictable financing for United Nations operational activities and the current high-level debate could only underscore the requirement for open discussion of reforms and proposals which the General Assembly could endorse at its next session.

Mr. ENE (Romania) said that widening economic inequalities and inequities and the scarcity of natural resources should not be the occasion of confrontation in the search for common interest. The role of the United Nations was crucial in that respect, not least because cooperation at global, regional or even bilateral levels could be effective only to the extent that the partners involved did not represent opposite poles of performance and welfare, but also because poverty itself was the main source of global disorder.

Effective international cooperation for growth and recovery could only be possible if all major countries made it their own objective. However, the constraints imposed by the interdependence of the world economy could be dealt with only through jointly formulated policies designed to favour necessary adjustments and the general growth of the world economy. Against that background, the international community was duty-bound to intervene to prevent violations of the principles of economic partnership, just as it did with increasing efficiency in the case of threats to international peace and security.

The process of reform currently under way in Romania involved the transition from a totalitarian system and from an inefficient command economy to a genuine democratic State based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, political pluralism and a market economy. At the same time, his country found itself faced with an inevitable decline in production and living standards, apart from the consequences of internecine wars and conflicts taking place in the immediate proximity of its borders. Moreover, in the recent past, Romania had been unjustly treated in its access to the official and private financial resources needed to surmount its difficulties. In the process of democratizing its society, it was determined to become a stable and reliable partner in economic and trade exchanges, and was fully aware of the important role that international cooperation and external assistance could play.

Mr. MARTIN (Australia) said that the revitalization of the United Nations must be based on the binding relationship between the goals of economic development and social justice, an interrelationship that had been reinforced at the Rio Conference, which had reaffirmed the relationship between environment and development, the need for sustainable development, and the fundamental priority of alleviating poverty. There was clearly a choice between reshaping the United Nations to achieve an integrated approach to human development, and losing an historic opportunity for human progress. The foundations for change had already been laid in General Assembly resolutions, and the task now was to build on that foundation, in particular by examining the respective roles of the Assembly itself, the Economic and Social Council

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(Mr. Martin, Australia)

and their subsidiary bodies. The establishment of a commission on sustainable development would add special urgency to that task.

The General Assembly should concentrate on its role as the main source, under the Charter, of policy advice and guidance on economic and social issues, while the Economic and Social Council should confine its activities to the functions of coordination and initiating reports on relevant issues and of furnishing information to the Security Council.

More specifically, the Economic and Social Council must take a more innovative approach towards fulfilling its responsibilities under Article 62 of the Charter. In that context, the high-level segment must be used to address current economic and social issues of concern to Member States which could not be covered by the regular agenda of the General Assembly. Analytical reports of high quality drawn up or initiated by the Council should form an important part of that process. At the same time, the Council's coordinating role must be strengthened and clearly distinguished from the policy-making role of the General Assembly. Similarly, its responsibilities in relation to the Security Council under Article 65 of the Charter had been separately addressed by the Secretary-General. All the reports relating to the Council's coordinating role had underlined the interdependence of peace and security, economic development and social justice.

At the same time, there was an urgent need to improve the governance of the United Nations operational activities at the agency level. His delegation fully supported the Nordic proposal to establish smaller executive boards, to be complemented by new and more appropriate and efficient procedures. At the country level, the offices of United Nations agencies should be amalgamated in order to improve the coordination of operational activities and to enhance the effectiveness of the Organization at the field level.

In conclusion, he said that the work of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council must be considered as complementary, and that the establishment of the commission on sustainable development must be considered as part of the endeavour to ensure an efficient division of labour and responsibility within the United Nations system.

Mr. LAVROV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation fully recognized the need to achieve a unified approach to both peace-keeping and development. The first steps had been taken, and, however difficult the task, the United Nations must continue to adapt itself to changing circumstances. In that regard, three criteria were essential. First, every body within the system must translate its good intentions into action within its sphere of competence; second, there must be coordination within the United Nations socio-economic sector; and third, there was a need to harmonize socio-economic activities with other priority undertakings of the Organization, including peace-keeping, the settlement of regional conflicts and ensuring high standards of democracy and human rights. In that connection, he fully supported the Secretary-General's endeavours in the area of early-warning activities regarding potential problems and crises. The functions of the United Nations in monitoring destabilizing factors in the social and economic fields, including disasters, ethnic hostilities, the violation of human rights and the enforced expulsion of populations, should also be strengthened.

The interests of international cooperation for development were well served by the complementary nature of the United Nations itself and other international economic organizations, particularly the Bretton Woods institutions. At the same time, cooperation with non-governmental organizations should be strengthened.

Among the various suggestions for the improvement of United Nations operational activities, his delegation would single out those proposed by the Nordic delegations in document E/1992/91. The idea of streamlining the structure of governing bodies of various technical assistance funds by establishing an international development council was worth further exploration. It might be helpful if the Secretary-General in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) were to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Committee on Programme and Coordination to participate in certain meetings of ACC. The Secretary-General might also consider submitting proposals regarding division of labour within the United Nations system with a view to ensuring that each agency confined itself to its own constitutional responsibilities.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

For participants only

E/1992/SR.14
10 July 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1992

High-level segment

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 14th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 6 July 1992, at 3 p.m.

President:	Mr. MROZIEWICZ	(Poland)

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Enhancing international cooperation for development: the role of the United Nations system

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Mr. GRANIĆ (Observer for Croatia) said that when it came to development, his Government could not ignore the suffering caused by the armed aggression by Serbia, Montenegro and the so-called Yugoslav People's Army against the Republic of Croatia and then Bosnia and Herzegovina, which had resulted in massive bloodshed, the biggest exodus of population since the Second World War and enormous material destruction. The toll of injured and dead stood at more than 25,000, while such towns as Vukovar, Dubrovnik, Osijek and many others had been devastated. Hospitals, churches, cultural treasures, schools and kindergartens had been devastated; in all, 40 per cent of the nation's economic potential had been either heavily damaged or destroyed. The total direct war damage inflicted on Croatia was estimated at up to $21 billion.

As a result of the Serbian and Montenegrin aggression against Croatia, some 260,000 persons had been displaced within Croatia itself, while another 120,000 to 170,000 Croatian refugees had found shelter in neighbouring countries.

Croatia was also suffering the impact of the escalating Serbian aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina and was sheltering more than 290,000 Bosnian refugees, mainly Muslims and Croats, 70 per cent of them women and children. For the care of displaced persons and refugees, in June 1992 alone, the Croatian Government had directly paid $93 million, exclusive of food and other relief supplies.

At the latest session of the Croatian parliament, the Government had proposed its programme of economic policies for the second half of 1992 hoping to avert galloping inflation and speed up social transformation. The biggest drain on the budget was the cost of war and of caring for displaced persons and refugees. The rebuilding of war-stricken areas and the return of displaced persons was the foremost task and would require an estimated $6.5 billion. His Government had called for an international conference on the reconstruction of Croatia to be organized by the United Nations and the European Community, with the ultimate objective of integrating the internationally recognized Croatia, a United Nations Member State, into the European and world systems.

He recalled the statement made some days before by the Permanent Representative of Croatia on the status within the United Nations of the recently proclaimed Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) and reiterated that it could not claim membership either in the Organization as a whole or in the Economic and Social Council in particular.

Mr. GANEV (Bulgaria) said that at that most important juncture in world development, mankind had an unprecedented opportunity to build a new world order based on democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, economic openness, social justice and equal security for all countries. The end of the world's ideological division created new opportunities for the international community, which must act quickly to take advantage of the opportunities which were emerging.

To prevent a new confrontation based on the widening gap in social and economic development between countries and regions, the mobilization of national efforts and the strengthening of multilateral economic cooperation were urgently needed, building on the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, the International Development Strategy for the 1990s and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries. Trends in world development indicated that national action alone was not enough to solve global issues.

The past decade had left unsolved problems of underdevelopment, poverty, famine, environmental degradation, drug addiction, overpopulation and accelerated migration. The time had come to seek lasting solutions to those problems through enhanced international cooperation; through joint efforts the world community would find the right decisions.

Eastern Europe's transition to a market economy was one of the greatest challenges of the 1990s and would influence not only the economic but also the

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(Mr. Ganev, Bulgaria)

political climate in the world. The United Nations should play a more active role in supporting that transition and in promoting cooperation with Eastern Europe. Bulgaria attached particular importance to participation in multilateral economic cooperation, which was an important factor in completing the country's radical economic reform and transition to a market economy. The reform had turned out to be much more difficult than previously expected and had been complicated by external conditions, such as the Persian Gulf crisis and United Nations sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). As one of the most affected Member States, Bulgaria expected the Organization's support in solving those problems.

As a European country, Bulgaria gave priority to participation in European economic cooperation, and particularly to its accession to the Council of Europe, the ongoing negotiations for association with the European Community, and its cooperation with the European Free Trade Association.

Bulgaria highly appreciated the activities of the Economic Commission for Europe and its potential for supporting countries in transition. By maintaining political, social and ethnic stability, Bulgaria was trying to contribute to enhanced security and stability in the Balkans. That was the basis of its initiative to convene, after the settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, a forum of all States involved, which would firmly renounce any territorial claims and ambitions.

Bulgaria was interested in developing active economic cooperation on a bilateral and multilateral basis with all its neighbours. Subregional cooperation in the Black Sea area could contribute to building up a new Europe and a pan-European economic area and to strengthening security and confidence in the region.

Mr. PRONK (Observer for the Netherlands) said that the changes in the world's political situation permitted a return to the Charter's holistic approach to United Nations objectives. There could be no lasting peace without social stability and sound economic conditions. Conversely, political stability and security were often preconditions of development. There was a need for a balance between social and economic objectives, on the one hand,

(Mr. Pronk, Observer, Netherlands)

and political and security objectives, on the other. It was time to give new emphasis to the mandate of the United Nations in social and economic development.

The reinforcement of democratic instititutions in support of human rights and the protection of minorities was an essential component of the United Nations contribution to both peace and economic and social progress. What was needed was a more unified, higher level and more efficient approach to the reform of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations. There was a widespread willingness throughout the system to implement reform, and the credibility of the United Nations had increased throughout the world; the Organization should seize the opportunity.

At the intergovernmental level, there was an urgent need for more efficient and powerful integovernmental structures, less overlap and more relevant agendas. There was a consensus that the Economic and Social Council should be revitalized as the coordinating body of the United Nations in the economic and social field, and recent decisions, in particular the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and proposals, such as that for the International Development Council, could help to accomplish that revitalization.

The necessary political impetus might be given to the economic and social discussions within the United Nations by having the annual meeting of the Council preceded by a two-day ministerial meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development to review and monitor international policies in that area, and followed by a two-day ministerial meeting to give the necessary overall political guidance to operational activities (the latter meeting would consititute the International Development Council proposed by the Nordic countries). The ministerial meetings should be of limited size and should have decision-making powers.

The Economic and Social Council itself should preferably become universal and economic issues discussed in the Council should not be taken up again by the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

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(Mr. Pronk, Observer, Netherlands)

The governance of individual programmes and funds would be improved through the establishment of smaller governing bodies that would meet more frequently, thus increasing their capacity to react to changing circumstances and requirements.

Once the Member States had agreed on setting up new intergovernmental structures, the tasks and responsibilities of the secretariats of the United Nations system could be realigned in such a way as to avoid any duplication and overlap. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) had a central role to play in ensuring system-wide complementarity and coherence in the work of the agencies. Adequate analytical capacity should be retained in the Department for Economic and Social Development and in the UNCTAD secretariat. Servicing the Commission on Sustainable Development and the International Development Council would constitute a new priority within the system and would require close interlinkage with, inter alia, the staff of the financial institutions.

At the field level, a more unified United Nations presence could be achieved in a given country if a United Nations ambassador, not linked to a particular fund or programme, were to be appointed by the Secretary-General. The United Nations would have three main tasks at country level: to coordinate the operational activities of the United Nations system in that country in a pragmatic and catalytic way; to take care of political matters such as peace-keeping and assistace in connection with elections; and to represent the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs in the country concerned.

On the question of financing, there was a need for more stable, predictable and broad-based funding of United Nations programmes and funds. The Nordic countries' proposals would certainly help to achieve that.

In conclusion, he recalled that over the last two decades a number of expert groups had studied proposals for reform. In view of their primordial political significance, a political approach was needed. The Council could establish a small, representative high-level group of ministers to develop proposals for reform of the United Nations development system in the light of the discussions at the current session and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forthcoming session.

Mr. MYASNIKOVICH (Belarus) said that the profound changes in the world necessitated greatly enhanced multilateral cooperation among the members of the world community and Belarus therefore welcomed efforts by the United Nations to increase the effectiveness of its work and to make it respond better to the new realities of the contemporary world.

As a newly independent State, Belarus adhered fully to the principles of the United Nations Charter and other international instruments guaranteeing civil, political, economic and cultural rights. It was forced to make its first steps as a full member of the European process initiated in Helsinki in the arduous conditions of economic transition to a market system, while still coping with the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster. It therefore set great store by the assistance accorded by the United Nations to countries in transition and, in particular, to technical assistance from organizations of the United Nations system. Belarus welcomed the decision by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to grant a number of countries of Eastern and Central Europe, including Belarus, the status of recipients of technical assistance. That assistance would help those countries become integrated into the world economy and create additional potential for the rendering of assistance to developing countries.

If the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy was to be strengthened, it was essential to enhance its potential for the early detection and prevention of harmful economic and social processes at both regional and global levels. Belarus therefore supported the proposal by the Secretary-General in his report on preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping (A/47/277), that, in accordance with Article 65 of the Charter, a reinvigorated and restructured Economic and Social Council should provide the Security Council with reports on economic and social developments which could endanger international peace and security. Belarus also supported the proposed strengthening of the United Nations role in coordinating emergency humanitarian assistance, in environmental protection and in ensuring sustainable development.

Mr. RACHIDI (Morocco) said that the end of the era of ideological confrontation and the new priority accorded to dialogue in the solution of regional conflicts had created a historic opportunity for wide-scale

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(Mr. Rachidi, Morocco)

disarmament and massive cuts in military spending. Morocco therefore proposed that a United Nations fund should be created from savings in military spending, which could be used to provide new resources for third world countries. The revitalization of the United Nations peace-keeping functions had also created new prospects for democracy and participatory development in many parts of the world.

Those favourable developments in international relations had not, however, benefited the majority of the world's peoples, who continued to suffer from poverty, external indebtedness and underdevelopment and the progress in international politics had not been matched by comparable economic advances. The cumulative impact of inadequate international saving and investment, the acute level of interest rates, the persisting external debt crisis and the decline in commodity prices, together with the strengthening of tariff barriers in international trade, was undermining efforts made by developing countries to liberalize their economies through structural adjustment programmes. In addition, the gap between North and South in technology and research and development had become alarmingly wide and was scarcely conducive to the establishment of a new world order in which progress, stability, justice and democracy would flourish.

The international community had an opportunity to lay the foundations of a better world and Morocco welcomed the call by the Secretary-General for a new partnership for sustained development as a step towards the attainment of that goal. The adoption of rational economic policies by all countries in combination with increased efforts by the developed countries to share their financial resources and to transfer technology for the benefit of the developing world would further enhance that process. It was essential for the developed countries to halt the adverse effects of their macroeconomic policies on developing countries and to abide by the principle of symmetrical adjustment. Morocco would therefore welcome strengthened surveillance by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to ensure that both deficit and surplus countries implemented policies more beneficial to the world as a whole.

The restructuring efforts undertaken within the Secretariat and at the intergovernmental level in the United Nations were certain to enhance its

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(Mr. Rachidi, Morocco)

effectiveness and the level of expertise of the organs concerned and Morocco believed that the expert appraisal of various subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council would lead to the further rationalization of the Organization's activities. In particular, Morocco welcomed the proposals by the Secretary-General in his report designed to promote a more unified representation at the country level and an integrated approach to economic and social questions and concurred with the need to rationalize the work of the General Assembly, particularly the working methods of its Main Committees, and to find a better division of labour between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. Finally, he welcomed the reform of United Nations governance and finance proposed by the Nordic countries in their memorandum E/1992/91, and believed that all the proposed reforms, if implemented with complete transparency and the full support of the States members, would attract the financial resources necessary for the United Nations to play its proper role in the new international order.

Mr. KOSTARCZYK (Poland) said that a number of major tasks faced the international community in enhancing the role of the United Nations in development. They included the elaboration of policies to halt the decline of the world economy and to close the development gap, the elimination of protectionism in international trade, efforts to match environmental protection policies to social and economic development and to check excessive population growth and the strengthening of democratic institutions to favour the protection of human rights and minorities. In addition, concerted efforts were needed to eradicate poverty, hunger and malnutrition, to improve health and social services, to achieve a more reasonable utilization of energy and natural resources, to optimize the opportunities created by the "peace dividend" and to explore the positive link between disarmament and development and policies should be developed to integrate the former communist States into the world economy and to expand their trade with the developing countries.

If those goals were to be attained, steps must be taken to revitalize the role of the Economic and Social Council in the overall management of United Nations social and economic activities, to strengthen programme and project coordination, and to introduce the necessary structural changes in the secretariats of international organizations.

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(Mr. Kostarczyk, Poland)

Poland was determined to proceed with its own systemic reforms, despite the heavy costs involved and differences of views on how those reforms were to be implemented. Signs of progress and stabilization were already evident in certain sectors of the national economy. In addition, Poland hoped to expand its relations with developing countries and to participate in technical cooperation among developing countries schemes sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In that context, it welcomed the proposals put forward by the Nordic countries and by the Secretary-General in his report (E/1992/82) and opening statement.

Mr. ALMADA (Argentina) said that the recent profound changes in the world political, economic and social order had reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in promoting the growth of the developing countries and had brought into clearer relief the external limitations on the economic growth and development of those countries. If the United Nations was to play an effective international role in preventive diplomacy, it must remain sensitive to the problems of developing countries and its initiatives must be conducive to the promotion of economic growth and development.

In particular, cooperation for development had a crucial role to play in overcoming such limitations as macroeconomic imbalances, trade restrictions and lack of access to technology and concerted efforts must be made to put into effect the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to approve the proposed holding of an international conference on the financing of development.

Argentina noted with concern the tendency to simplify the concept of cooperation for development by restricting it to operational activities. While the Nordic United Nations Project had made a laudable contribution to the reform processes initiated by resolution 45/264, it was limited to two aspects of operational activities, governance and funding and its valuable proposals would be effective only if they formed part of a general social and economic restructuring of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of resolutions 45/264 and 46/235.

In conclusion, Argentina believed that the high-level segment was a useful forum for the exchange of views on the restructuring exercise and that

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its debate should contribute to the reforms under way to revitalize the economic and social sectors of the Organization and should reaffirm the role of the United Nations in cooperation for development.

Mr. FADZIL (Malaysia) said that the international community should seize the opportunity afforded by the high-level segment to examine ways in which the United Nations could enhance its role as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations, in accordance with the principles of the Charter. While sharing the Secretary-General's view that true peace was impossible without economic and social development and that the ills of the world should be viewed from a world perspective, Malaysia had reservations about the suggestion that the Economic and Social Council should submit reports to the Security Council, since the Security Council should not assume the function, properly assigned to the General Assembly, of an apex mechanism of the Organization.

Furthermore, the Secretary-General's report did not adequately address the need for a more favourable global economic environment in which the long-standing problem of eradicating poverty and the increasing external debt burden of developing countries could be properly addressed. Malaysia believed that Member States, and not the Organization as a whole, were to be blamed for failure to promote the economic development of developing countries, since their overall level of assistance, both bilateral and through the United Nations system, had significantly decreased in recent years. Too often, the policies of Member States were designed to advance the self-interest of individual countries or groups of countries over the global interest. It was ironic that a combination of trade restrictions and unequal partnership in the global economy had cost developing countries $500 billion a year, 10 times as much as they had received in foreign assistance, at the very time those countries were undertaking arduous economic reforms. Instead of exacerbating the increasingly difficult economic environment, developed countries with the necessary means should bear the onus of enhancing international cooperation for development and give the United Nations the material support it needed to play its appointed role.

(Mr. Fadzil, Malaysia)

International development cooperation was threatened by the rigid and short-sighted conservative economic thinking which had failed at the national level in certain leading countries and a renewed commitment was required to revitalize international development cooperation at the highest political level in the developed countries. In addition, the United Nations system should be periodically reviewed and adjusted to ensure that it always performed its role in accordance with the priorities of its Members. Member States should permit even the most drastic restructuring measures in the Organization if the effectiveness with which it achieved the objectives set by the Charter of promoting economic and social development was thereby enhanced.

The Nordic countries had showed a serious commitment to reforming the United Nations system, particularly in the area of international development cooperation. Malaysia supported initiatives aimed at further improving United Nations machinery in that field in order to promote the development process. In reforming the structure of the United Nations, the concepts of democracy and universality must be the basis of the decision-making process to ensure the support of all Member States for efforts to promote development and maintain international peace and security.

The process of restructuring the United Nations system must include reforming all development and financial agencies, in particular, the Bretton Woods institutions, which, despite widespread criticism of their roles in promoting development, had remained untouchable. The roles and functions of those institutions must be streamlined to support those of other agencies within the broader United Nations system.

Mr. RURIKAIRE (Observer for Uganda) said that his delegation was, on the whole, favourable to the proposal concerning unified United Nations offices at the country level but cautioned that such unification should in no way diminish the effectiveness of the operations of existing agencies such as UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP. Unprecedented opportunities and challenges were facing the international community. The United Nations system had a primary responsibility to ensure the well-being of all persons.

Uganda was looking forward to the deliberations at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on the proposed system-wide Programme of

(Mr. Rurikaire, Observer, Uganda)

Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. The United Nations had the necessary policy framework to respond to the special problems and requirements in that area. The response thus far by the international community and the United Nations system was still inadequate and fell far short of expectations. The United Nations system must increase its support for Africa by translating the various mandates into concrete measures. The organizations of the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions must coordinate their policies in a coherent manner at all levels to ensure maximum impact of programmes.

The problems facing Africa were widespread and diverse. The structural adjustment programmes undertaken by most countries still required substantial technical and financial assistance. The United Nations system needed unequivocal support by the countries of the North in providing Africa with enhanced resource flows in order to ensure growth during economic reform processes and to deal decisively with economic and social strains caused by adjustment and widespread poverty among the most vulnerable groups.

In the case of Uganda, the AIDS pandemic had become a special focus of Government attention and substantial international support continued to be required in that field. Other critical needs included further reduction of the debt burden and increased concessional financing and market access for Africa's products. In that context, his delegation called for the speedy conclusion of the ongoing negotiations of the Uruguay Round. Achieving those objectives would not only promote Africa's economic and social well-being but would also help to bring about a more equitable world order.

The current session should provide preliminary views on how the Council should oversee the follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. Detailed guidelines could be elaborated on the basis of the relevant proposals to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council and the General Assembly in 1993. The intergovernmental organizations and the programmes of the United Nations system should assist the General Assembly and the Council in implementing mandated programmes and activities, drawing attention to problems encountered and suggesting actions to address them.

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Mr. BEJARANO (Colombia) said that international cooperation must encourage the adoption of multilateral measures promoting global economic growth in order to enable developing countries to eliminate poverty. The internal economic reforms which each country was committed to carry out would not be successful without multilateral measures supporting that effort in the fields of technology, trade and finance. In that context, the United Nations had a crucial role to play in defining and coordinating policies. All Member States must participate actively in the deliberations of the Council and the General Assembly and ensure clear and effective coordination of the work of those two bodies.

His country was concerned at the fact that development financing depended almost exclusively on voluntary contributions. That situation gave rise to the danger that donor countries might use multilateral organizations to serve national policies. Colombia viewed with interest the suggestion by the Nordic countries that part of the resources for cooperation for development should come from negotiated voluntary contributions, provided that the priorities established by the General Assembly were respected. In the long term, a substantial part, if not all, of the resources of development funds should come from mandatory contributions.

Although the maintenance of international peace and security was a very important function of the United Nations, it was not the sole purpose of the Organization. The United Nations must take account of the fact that peace and development were interrelated and the General Assembly must be respected as the principal universal body of Member States. Development depended on security as well as the coordination of international economic policies favouring the efforts made in that field by developing countries. In that regard, it was very important to coordinate reforms by the Secretariat with those carried out at the intergovernmental level. Both should strengthen the role of multilateral action in the economic and social field and ensure that the concept of development was not limited to humanitarian assistance. Such assistance could not replace the work of the Organization in establishing the financial, technical and trade conditions that favoured sustainable development.

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Mr. MOULTRIE (Observer for the Bahamas) said that a dual approach based on national efforts and international cooperation was necessary in order to deal with the consequences of the world-wide recession. Although there was a growing recognition of the need for continued restructuring and adjustment of national economies in order to promote development, the economic policies of individual States required a dynamic and supportive international economic environment. The principal objective of international economic cooperation must be to restore vigorous growth in the world economy. The United Nations had a crucial role to play in that regard through its operational agencies and as a catalyst for efforts by Governments and regional and non-governmental organizations.

The United Nations system had already demonstrated its potential by promoting expansion and growth in response to changing world conditions. It had become increasingly evident that existing institutions and mechanisms must be more effectively utilized in order to address emerging global economic issues and enhance economic cooperation for development. Such collaborative efforts would necessarily entail restraint on the part of Member States in pursuing national policies. The ultimate objective of United Nations activities in the field of economic cooperation must be to increase the Organization's potential for promoting the economic interests of every Member State. Joint approaches were necessary in order to address such problems as national minorities, refugees, drugs, poverty and natural and man-made disasters. The restructured Economic and Social Council was well placed to play a coordinating role in that regard. The United Nations and the international financial institutions should provide an equitable forum for agreeing on and implementing common policies; and Member States must be guided by the shared interests of all mankind and seek mutually acceptable solutions to problems.

The focus of much of the Organization's recent work had shifted to the maintenance of peace and security. It must be recognized that global security was complex and multifaceted. In elaborating a concept of global security there was a need to guard against oversimplification and a one-sided approach. Concentrating on the maintenance of peace and security without a commitment to development programmes would result in security that was at best tenuous. The United Nations must be the expression of the collective will of the Member States to strengthen international cooperation and multilateralism and should become a powerful vehicle for economic and social advancement in all regions.

Mr. NORDMANN (Observer for Switzerland) said that his country was fully participating in United Nations efforts to meet the complex challenges facing the international community and welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to coordinate the activities of the Organization. He underscored in particular the role given to the Bretton Woods institutions and stressed the need to ensure that the regional commissions had the necessary means to carry out fully their mandates. An international development forum was essential for the overall management of development activities. Clear priorities must be established in the key areas of international cooperation for development; and action strategies must be laid down at the global and regional level. The division of work within the United Nations system must be based on complementary responsibilities and mandates as well as transparent structures. The proposals put forward by the Secretary-General, particularly with regard to the establishment of an intersessional body, were interesting and could be used to complete the first phase of the revitalization of the Council.

His country generally supported the evaluation carried out in various studies of the functioning of existing executive bodies and other governing councils. Small executive councils that met for shorter periods of time but with greater frequency would facilitate cooperation between participating Governments and the secretariats of United Nations funds and programmes.

There was a need for a predictable and transparent system of financing. The proposal to broaden the base of financial contributions by adopting a system with mandatory, negotiated and voluntary contributions should be considered. Sound management of the institutions as well as quality, transparency and joint evaluation of activities were important elements in allocating multilateral funds for development. Lastly, Switzerland supported the ideas put forward with regard to the strengthening of international cooperation and stressed the need to engage in a broader and more balanced dialogue in order to reach a consensus as speedily as possible.

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Mr. de la PUENTE (Peru) said that international cooperation for economic and social development was the fundamental purpose of the Organization. A concept of international cooperation based on pragmatic political guidelines was necessary in view of the profound changes affecting the international situation. The Organization had set up mechanisms to centralize and coordinate its activities at the upper management level. A new global concept of international cooperation based on consensus was necessary in order to avoid the danger of an isolationist regional approach in which the developed world sought to protect itself against global problems such as drug addiction, mass migration towards rich countries and AIDS. Accordingly, economic and social development and international cooperation must be accorded the same priority as the maintenance of international peace and security. Neither was subordinate to the other.

His country was currently undergoing a complex process of change aimed at making democracy a national reality by improving its public institutions and encouraging a more active role by all sectors of society. Elections would be held for a democratic constituent congress to set up a more modern and efficient state structure; and a national dialogue for peace and development had been initiated. Working meetings had been organized between representatives of the Government and the various political groups in order to bring about a speedy return to institutional legitimacy. The process of democratic consolidation under way in Peru was also based on respect for human rights in the struggle to combat terrorism. An important step had been taken in the difficult task of adapting Peruvian political culture in order to cope with challenges in the future. Lastly, he stressed the need to enhance the role of the United Nations in the field of international security and at the same time to promote diplomacy in favour of development in order to put into practice the new consensus on international development.

Mr. SALTANOVIC (Yugoslavia) said that the generally positive changes in international relations in recent years had not had the desired impact on the international economic situation or on cooperation for development. The adoption of the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the

(Mr. Saltanovic, Yugoslavia)

Developing Countries by the General Assembly at its eighteenth special session and of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade had not fulfilled expectations, owing in large measure to the inadequate involvement of the United Nations system in efforts to accelerate development in underdeveloped countries. His delegation shared the views on the international economic situation and the role of the United Nations system contained in the inspiring report of the Secretary-General.

The importance of mobilizing the United Nations system on behalf of development activities was underscored by the current bleak economic situation. The developing countries continued to face slower economic growth, rising unemployment and mounting inflationary pressures. Commodity prices had fallen to their lowest level during the past decade, while real interest rates remained high. Many developing countries continued to face the onerous burden of foreign debt, while official development assistance continued to decline.

The developing countries fully acknowledged that they bore the primary responsibility for their own development. Developing countries which had shifted to a market economy faced new challenges in addition to their long-standing economic problems, and their efforts could not succeed without adequate international support. If the development dialogue was to prove more productive and facilitate the achievement of the development objectives of the 1990s, it must proceed on the basis of equality, partnership and common interests in the General Assembly, the Council and UNCTAD.

Action undertaken thus far to promote sound policy coordination among countries had not yielded adequate results, and his delegation therefore supported the need for closer and more institutionalized policy coordination, taking into account the interests of all countries and especially the implications for the development of developing countries. United Nations deliberations must prove more productive and relevant and decisions should be more action-oriented. Full advantage should be taken of the work of the regional commissions and the newly restructured and revitalized UNCTAD. Enhanced cooperation between the General Assembly and the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) within their spheres of competence was indispensable. His delegation looked forward to the forthcoming policy dialogue in that connection.

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Positive steps had been taken during the past year to improve the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. Further efforts must be made to rationalize the agendas of the Council and the General Assembly and to make greater use of the coordination potential of the Council. The establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development represented an important step. Ideas relating to the establishment of an economic security council with executive and policy-making functions required serious consideration.

The harsh economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations on his country were severely affecting its entire population. The sanctions represented the most comprehensive embargo imposed by the United Nations against any State. The condemnation of his country as the only one responsible for the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was unjust and one-sided. Nevertheless, his country was doing everything in its power to comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, for it was convinced that a just and lasting peace could be achieved only through a dialogue which took into account the vital interests of all parties in the region. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as the legal successor of Yugoslavia, was determined to play its part in the profound changes which characterized the contemporary world. Unless the economic sanctions against his country were lifted, it would be forced to seek large-scale humanitarian assistance to meet the most essential needs of its citizens. His delegation therefore expected the sanctions to be lifted immediately, thus creating the necessary conditions for the development of Yugoslavia, which was a prerequisite for peace and stability in the country and in the region as a whole.

Speaking in exercise of his right of reply, he said that the Observer for Croatia had advanced political positions that were outside the scope of the Council's agenda and that his gross and senseless allegations were propaganda intended for home consumption.

Since the Observer for Croatia had seen fit to condemn the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, namely, Serbia and Montenegro, for alleged aggression against Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, he was obliged to draw the Council's attention to the fact that at that very moment divisions of Croatia's regular army were actively conducting an offensive in and occupying

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large parts of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina. With regard to the remarks of the Observer for Croatia on the continuity of the legal personality of Yugoslavia and its membership in the United Nations, he referred delegations to the statement by his own delegation at the opening meeting of the Council's session on 29 June.

The PRESIDENT, briefly summarizing the points raised during the debate that day, said that it had been widely recognized that the current world situation provided a unique opportunity to examine and strengthen the role of the United Nations in enhancing international cooperation for development. The integrated nature of political, economic and social issues had been increasingly recognized. The interrelationship between environment and development had also been emphasized.

Many delegations had referred to an emerging agreement on the goals of human-centred, equitable and sustainable development, and many had also considered the elimination of poverty a primary objecive. A large number of development problems remained unresolved, and many delegations had found the current state of the world economy particularly troublesome. The importance of an international economic environment that was conducive to economic progress in the developing countries had been underscored. Emphasis had been placed on the need to make the United Nations a more effective instrument for cooperation. Several delegations had underscored the need for further progress in the restructuring and reform of intergovernmental machinery and the Secretariat, and many speakers had called for greater complementarity between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

A number of delegations, welcoming the decision to establish the Commission on Sustainable Development, which was to report to the Council on the implementation of Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, had considered that that would enhance the policy-making function of the Council. Particular emphasis had been placed on continuing efforts to strengthen the coordination function of the Council in relation to United Nations programmes and the work of the specialized agencies. In that regard, the relationship between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the specialized agencies had been considered of

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key importance by many delegations, and questions had been raised as to how greater cooperation and complementarity could be achieved in the interests of donor and recipient countries alike. The role of ACC had been viewed as central in bringing about greater coherence in the system, and the efforts under the leadership of the Secretary-General to review its functioning had been welcomed.

Virtually all statements had addressed the technical cooperation and operational activities of the United Nations. With the expansion of those activities, many delegations had seen considerable fragmentation, overlapping and duplication, limited responsiveness and a lack of transparency and accountability. Financing of operational activities had been viewed by many as insufficient, erratic and unstable. The need for better coordination at the country and regional levels had been stressed. Lastly, the questions of the governance and financing of United Nations agencies had been viewed as interrelated, and speakers had referred to various proposals, including the Nordic United Nations project, to improve the management and financing of operational activities. There had been wide support for the concept of an international development council or committee to provide overall policy guidance and set priorities for the development agencies, functions which could be performed without necessarily creating a new intergovernmental body. Proposals had also been advanced regarding the funding of operational activities.

Mr. NAKAJIMA (Director-General, World Health Organization) said that the heads of the specialized agencies in ACC agreed that it was essential for the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions to work closely together to enable the United Nations system to function more effectively at the country level. The agency heads faced various problems with respect to staffing policy, as well as staff skills, their conditions of employment and the politicization of the staffing process. Such problems often hampered the work of the agencies, particularly at the country level. At times the agencies were viewed as employment agencies, rather than as organizations which delivered a real service.

(Mr. Nakajima, WHO)

The agency heads in ACC would continue to keep staffing matters under review, including conditions of employment, geographical limitations and the employment of women. Satisfactory resolution of staffing problems was a precondition for fruitful cooperation among the agencies themselves and between them and the Bretton Woods institutions.

The PRESIDENT, replying to a question from Mr. MARKER (Pakistan), said that the summary he had presented at the current meeting was informal and was intended to facilitate discussion. At the conclusion of the high-level segment, he would provide the Council with a written summary of the entire segment.

Mr. MAYOR (Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), emphasizing how crucial education was for economic growth, said that natural resources were useless if countries lacked the knowledge to extract and transform them, and that sustainability depended on the attitudes of the people, which, in turn, were forged through education on values and ethical principles.

The success of efforts to moderate population growth also depended on education, particularly of women and girls. Education, teacher training, access to knowledge and the transfer of knowledge were critical if countries were to develop manpower with adequate skills to cope with a rapidly evolving world.

He also underscored the importance of education for the consolidation of democracy and peace-building. Increased investment in education, science and culture as well as in peace-building would diminish the need for investment in peacemaking and peace-keeping. Education and access to knowledge were the key to equity and human dignity.

Mr. AHTISAARI (Finland) said that he was pleased to note the wide political support expressed for the proposals for reform in the economic and social sector and hoped that that support would be appropriately reflected in the President's written summary. He took note of the fact that the discussion had focused on the questions of political guidance, operational governance and financing.

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(Mr. Ahtisaari, Finland)

With regard to the proposal that the reform process should be linked with General Assembly resolution 45/264, he emphasized the importance of agreeing at an early stage on the principles and guidelines for reform. For the purpose of working out the details of the reform process, it might be desirable to establish an informal open-ended working group on the subject, as the President of the General Assembly had done in 1991 to facilitate the coordination of humanitarian assistance.

Mr. PRONK (Observer for the Netherlands), referring to the statement by the Director-General of the World Health Organisation, said that if Governments expected the specialized agencies to be centres of excellence in terms of governance, they certainly should not force the agencies to employ less than highly qualified staff.

To facilitate further discussion of the item under consideration, he suggested that the Secretariat should prepare a review of the specific proposals made concerning restructuring at the intergovernmental, secretariat and field levels.

The PRESIDENT agreed that such a paper would be useful.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.